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THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON ON CHURCH AFFAIRS.

DR. JACKSON, the new Bishop of London, was presented on Saturday last, in the hall of Sion College, with an address of welcome, signed by a large number of the clergy of the City and Archdeaconry of London. At the conclusion of the formal part of the proceedings, the right rev. prelate addressed his audience in a less ceremonious strain on some of the more noticeable features of the condition of the Anglican Church Establishment at the present time. We have read his remarks with much interest. They are pervaded by a tone of Christian manliness, of decided faith, and of liberal feeling, which promises well for his successful, or at any rate vigorous, government of the diocese over which he has been called to preside. Dr. Jackson does not believe in the modern theory, that bishops should array themselves in theological and ecclesiastical professions of a neutral tint. "It would be an insult," he said, "to a diocese like that of London to place the charge of it in the hands of one who had no distinct opinions, or one who was afraid to confess them." Accordingly he did not hesitate to indicate pretty intelligibly his own whereabouts among the differences that for a long time past have divided the Church.

Dr. Jackson claims for the Church of England that she is at the same time Protestant and Catholic—Protestant in the attitude of opposition to the innovations of the Church of Rome, and Catholic as a sound and living member of that one Church which is the body of Christ—all the more sound, indeed, because she is reformed. On this head he expressed himself with a decision at which most Nonconformists will be tempted to smile. Considering what is set forth in the Articles, and bearing in mind the French proverb, *Qui s'excuse, s'accuse*, they will be rather surprised at the solemnity with which the Bishop of London, speaking of their Church to his clergy, expresses his "unhesitating belief that the Reformation was a blessing, and not, as has been represented in some quarters, a crime." It is a curiously suggestive fact, that a prelate of the Protestant Episcopal Church should, after upwards of three hundred years of its national establishment, deem it necessary to announce his conviction that the Reformation which gave birth to it was a blessing and not a crime. It shows that the teaching which such an announcement was meant to rebuke must have become common enough to excite alarm, or such a declaration would have been sadly out of place. Fancy any conspicuous member of the Cabinet obliged by a strong manifestation of political feeling, to justify the expediency of the Revolution of 1688. What inference could be reasonably drawn from the seeming anachronism, but that a spirit of disloyalty to the reigning Sovereign had become rife among many who had sworn allegiance to a descendant of the House of Hanover? But let this pass! The Bishop of London needed not to clear his own reputation—for no one who had watched his career could doubt him—but he did feel, not merely the necessity, but the propriety of asserting the high religious worth of the Reformation, because he knew that by some of his own clergy, and by hundreds of them in other dioceses, it has been stoutly denied.

The right rev. prelate was no less emphatic in another direction. To him, he said, "the Bible was the word of God, the only legitimate appeal on all questions of doctrine, as well as in the determination of all principles of practice." This is broad ground for a Bishop of the Anglican Church to take in modern times. The Judicial Committee of Privy Council would assert the same thing, in the same words, of the Book of Common Prayer appended to an Act of Parliament. Dr. Jackson seems to forget for the moment that his Church has never had an existence apart from law—that neither her doctrines nor her practices are sustained in her ecclesiastical courts by a reference to the Bible. Her legal position is determined exclusively by what is to be found within the four corners of an Act of Parliament. No doubt many of her articles of belief, and some of her distinctive ritual, are in harmony with the teachings of the "word of God written." But in any dispute concerning them, the ultimate appeal lies, not to the Bible, but to her Majesty in Council, and her Majesty in Council is bound to interpret them, not by the Bible, but by the law. The Church of England can only retain her status and emoluments by a surrender of her freedom of interpretation, and in the last resort her duties are made known to her, not by her spiritual rulers, but by the judges of the realm.

Speaking of existing differences in the Church, Dr. Jackson said it was once the dream of his life that they were rapidly passing away, and that men now living would see the time when all minor differences, at least, would disappear. "That dream was now dissipated. The spirit of the age had penetrated the Church. The aggressive activity of intellect which called all first principles into question, which took nothing for granted, which delighted in perplexities, and which allowed no prescription to be any evidence of truth or ground of persuasion—the spirit of anomaly which was abroad. which they found in literature, which they found in politics, which they found in the Church—were portentous signs. All these things had been acting among themselves, and the reaction which ensued always tended to widen the differences, and to set parties more in opposition than before. This appeared to him to be not an improper description of the state in which the Church was at present placed." But is there not something else, besides the aggressive activity of intellect, to account for the violent pressure of party upon party within the Establishment? Nay, must not the greater amount of it be attributed to the fuller tide of religious life which has flowed in upon it? Law-bound as it is, and must be as a State institution, and deprived of all capability of natural and gradual expansion, is it not certain that with increase of life seeking free expression in increase of growth, the Church, hooped together by legal definitions and restrictions, and unable to yield to the spirit which becomes stronger within her, should find differences of conviction and faith intensified and exaggerated, until, as now, they grow to be utterly unmanageable?

The Bishop seems himself to have got a glimpse of this truth—though to him it presents a more gloomy and portentous aspect than to us. He disclaims all pretence of prescribing a remedy. Errors of doctrine, he says with as much truth as point, will never be cured by law decisions, which, even if they can silence, never can persuade. Nor will differences of opinion be cured by "Church-speaking." "If the Church were to speak by the united voice of the Episcopate, aided by men learned in theology and law, or by the voice of Convocation in one, two, or four provinces, or by diocesan or provincial synods, or by general councils, he believed the result would be pretty much the same—namely, that those whose opinions were condemned would contend that the Church had not spoken, or that the Church had made a mistake." Just so—but if so, why have we Acts of Uniformity and why do we impose clerical subscription? Dr. Jackson can hardly be said to agree with Dean Stanley. Evidently he draws a clear distinction beween the Church and the world. He would, it is true, allow "a considerable amount of latitude to those who were loyal members of her communion"; but he thinks those limits are considerably overpassed when one among them "is allowed to hold that the Resurrection is an open doctrine, while another claims the right to interpret the Articles of the Church of England as being in harmony and identical with the decrees of the Council of Trent."

But if there be within the Anglican Church this latitude of profession, co-existing with rigid law decisions which cannot cure it, will Dr. Jackson tell us why we have a national Church Establishment at all? Supposing the element of law—that is, of civil authority—wholly withdrawn from contact with the Church as a spiritual institution, would not Church life very speedily become more homogeneous? We respectfully submit that this is a problem which the right rev. prelate would gain more light in the process of mastering, than he will be likely to get or give by studying the weak points in the character of the newspaper press. But, we must part with him in good humour. We thank him for his outspoken and large-hearted address—and are not sorry to find that while, in form, of course, he is a Churchman, in spirit and feeling, and even in unpremeditated speech, he is still more a Christian.

THE ORIGIN AND NATURE OF IRISH CHURCH PROPERTY.

IV. THE REFORMATION AND ITS RESULTS.

THE old Irish annalists describe the Reformation under Henry VIII. in the following language—"A new heresy and error arose in England, though pride, vain glory, avarice,

sensuality, and many strange speculations, so that the people of England went into opposition to the Pope and to Rome. They, at the same time, embraced extraordinary opinions, and the old laws of Moses, in imitation of the Jewish people, and nominated the King during his own reign chief head of the Church of God. New laws and statutes were enacted by the King and Council according to their own will; they ruined the religious orders who were entitled to hold worldly possessions, namely, monks, canons, nuns, friars of the Cross, and the four poor orders, viz., the Minor order, the Preachers, Carmelites, and Augustinians; and the possessions and livings of all those were taken up for the King. They demolished the monasteries, sold their roofs and bells, and there was not a monastery, from Aran of the Saints to the Iccian Sea, that was not shattered and completely destroyed, except only a few in Ireland, which the English did not find out or discover. They also broke and burned the celebrated images, shrines, and the relics of the Saints of Ireland and England. They also burned, after that, the image of the illustrious Virgin Mary which was at Athraim, which wrought wonders and miracles, and healed the blind, the deaf, the lame, and persons affected with various diseases; also the Staff of Jesus, which was in Dublin, and wrought miracles from the time of St. Patrick to that period, and had been in the hands of Christ when He was among men."

The reader will be pretty well able to distinguish what is false from what is true in this record. What is quite true is that Henry took possession of all the monastic and conventual institutions with their lands, tithes, and other property. There were at that time, in Ireland the following monasteries:—

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It is stated that these monastic institutions had become possessed of one-half of the total amount of Irish tithes. They had, that is to say, as in England, procured their appropriation. How much they yielded it is impossible to say, but, whatever the amount, they were seized under the authority of two Acts passed by the Irish Legislature, and given to the King. The first of these Acts provided that the King should "have and enjoy all such monasteries and tithes, in the same manner, form, state and condition, as the abbot had, or of right ought to have had the same, at the time of the dissolution." By an impudent fiction another Act declares that this immense property was surrendered by its possessors "of their own free and voluntary minds and assents, without restraint, co-action, or compulsion of any manner, person or persons." It *was* surrendered, at any rate. Commissioners were appointed to take possession of it, who sold the gold and silver and were rewarded, with others, by the gift of the greater portion of all the property, including tithes, lands, glebes—everything. The result of these Acts, according to a Church authority, was that the rectorial tithes of 562 parishes passed into the hands of laymen, that 108 parishes became wholly impropriate, and that 1,480 glebes passed into the possession of laymen. The Church, in fact, was stripped. Some impropriators gave back what they received, but, taken as a whole, this once wealthy community was reduced to a state of, to say the least, comparative poverty.

It is to be remembered, however, that these acts affected the monastic lands only. It is believed that, at the time of the Reformation, there were about four hundred churches in Ireland, all of which were handed over to the new faith, and it was especially provided (33 Henry VIII. c. 14) that, as regards the vicarages, or livings of which the monasteries had held the rectorial tithes, that the vicars should be endowed with the same mansions, tythes, portions and oblations that had hitherto pertained to them. The churches that had rectorial tithes attached to them were left in full possession of these tithes.

Dr. A. T. Lee, in his Essay, fragmentary and partial as it is, on the "Property and Statistics of the Irish Church," which was included in the volume of "Essays on the Irish Church," published two years since, makes no reference to this last fact, but it is still a fact of, to say the least, considerable importance. As a result of the legislation under Henry VIII., we find the appropriated tithes made, to some extent, impropriate, but it will be seen by-and-by that neither the appropriate nor the impropriate tithes ultimately formed any considerable proportion of the revenues originally destined to ecclesiastical purposes. The State handed over to the new Protestant community—men, who were originally Protestants, or men, who under the influence of national authority, changed their faith the Church edifices, many of the glebes, a great part—say a half—of the tithes. With this capital, and this capital only, the Protestant Episcopalian Church began its work. Care also appears to have been taken that no benefice should be left unendowed. With regard to the vicarages, which had hitherto been served by members of the different monastic communities, the Act of 1542 (33 Henry VIII. c. 14) empowered the Commissioners to erect and incorporate a vicarage in each of the several parish churches which had been appropriated to dissolved religious houses which had no vicar endowed.

There was, however, property of another nature, which, although not enjoyed by the Church as such, was still of ecclesiastical origin. Amongst this were the first fruits of benefices, which had hitherto been paid to the Pope. One of the Irish Acts of Henry (28 cap. 8), following a similar English Act, provided that, in future, all persons nominated to any ecclesiastical preferment must pay the first year's income to the king. Another (28 cap. 14) provided that a twentieth part of the profit of all spiritual promotions be paid to the king "for ever." Those words *for ever* we make a present to some Church property defenders, who are given to emphasise them in italics when they are used in Acts of Parliament relating to Church property in general. Those old "Peter's Pence," in consideration of which Pope Adrian benevolently transferred Ireland to the rule of Henry II., were at the same time abolished.

The result, so far as it can now be traced, of the Reformation Acts with respect to Church property in Ireland was as follows:—All dues payable to the Pope were abolished, most of them being seized by the Crown, to be afterwards, as we shall see, made a free gift to the Church for the extension of Protestantism. The monastic establishments were abolished, and a great portion of their property, landed and personal, given to laymen. On the other hand, the Church edifices, such as they were, were transferred to Protestant uses, and with them such tithes as the individual rectors possessed, while provision was, at the same time, made for the endowment of churches which had hitherto possessed only the vicarial tithes. It is to be suspected that this provision was not carried out in a very liberal manner, and that Bishop Mant's remarks are to some extent, historically justifiable. The Bishop says, "Nor was it at all a symptom of good will, that when he relieved the Church from the impediment of the monastic institutions, he forbore to provide thereby for the religious education of her people, as well as to bestow upon her any secular benefit, and left her incapacitated for necessary activity, and beset by difficulties, which were in a great degree created or augmented by the disappropriation of the ecclesiastical revenues for his own gratification and the enrichment of his favourites, and the consignment of them for ever to the hands of lay possessors." But, the inquiry naturally occurs here, if this was the condition of the Protestant what was the condition of the Roman Catholic Church, which was stripped of everything, and a great portion of its revenues devoted to the propagation of another faith? How did it, and how has it succeeded, and the other not succeeded? The fact is, that the weakness of the Protestant Church was in proportion to its endowments, and that, as it was increasingly supported by the State, it lost whatever energy it possessed, and lost also in relative numbers. Really, however, it started as a new State-endowed Church pretty well furnished for its work. In the next article we shall trace its progress as respects property down to our own times.

THE WESLEYANS AND THE *NONCONFORMIST*.

IT will be seen, from a letter subscribed "A Wesleyan Free-Churchman," to which we have given insertion in another column, that principles of almost world-wide bearing are sometimes seriously obstructed in their progress by extremely insignificant causes—just as a little lump of grit in the wrong place will sometimes injure and impede the best-wrought machinery. Who would have imagined that some remarks made in this journal in 1853, on the conduct of the Wesleyan Conference, in the *Fly-Leaves* controversy, would be regarded by anybody as of the least earthly interest in 1869? That some of them were dug out of the obscurity to which they were consigned and used as a good electioneering weapon at the last General Election was not so very astonishing—but we confess to our surprise and grief that they should continue to deter sober minds from pursuing objects of vast importance, on account of our connection with such objects.

There were obvious reasons for our maintaining silence on this matter, at least in this journal, during the heat of a General Election. The passage referred to, as we have already said, was written many years ago *apropos* of a specific occasion. An interpretation was put upon it which gave it a far more general and permanent significance than we could have possibly foreseen. We had written, in rough and ready terms, what we thought at the time, of a particular body of men in their mode of dealing with certain persons and facts under their notice, and subject to their action, at that time. Had we imagined that Wesleyans through all coming years would regard us as expressing a judicial opinion concerning the character of their Conference, in its essential nature, past, present and future, we should have written in a different tone. It is no concession to say, though we say it without hesitation, that we could no more write of that assembly in the present day as we then did, than Conference could now adopt the same course which it then adopted. Happily, great changes, many of them imperceptibly wrought, have passed upon the spirit, not of that ecclesiastical body alone, but of all ecclesiastical bodies. In those changes we hope we have shared. The more we see of ourselves and of human nature the less disposed we feel to judge of other men's motives by our own speculative views, and the more inclined we are to look at their acts through the medium of that "charity which hopeth all things." For many of the leading men—ministers and laymen—belonging to the Wesleyan community, we cherish—and they know it—the highest respect. Of Wesleyanism as a religious system, we spoke in terms of admiration in the very article which has inflicted so much pain upon many sensitive minds. And now that the controversy which called it forth has long since passed away, and that Methodism has adapted and is adapting itself to the new order of things, we should be ashamed of ourselves if we were not able honestly to profess our desire to do it justice, and, so far as our work tends to the same great object as theirs, to co-operate with it in hearty sympathy. If it will afford the least relief to "A Wesleyan and Free-Churchman," or, indeed, to any Wesleyan whom our article of 1853 has grieved, we frankly express our regret at the pain we have unintentionally caused them, and take back any expression at which they stumble, with the wish that it had never been penned.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

WE are glad to see that the Bishops are contemplating the possibility of the disendowment of the Irish Church. They held their customary meeting last week at Lambeth Palace. We are informed by the *John Bull*, which, as regards intelligence of this nature, is likely to be correct, that the prelates discussed two questions—that of the Irish Church and that of Ritualism. It is stated that, as to the first, a general feeling was elicited that if disestablishment took place, the Church must be absolutely free. On the other hand, it is said that the Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Tait) expressed an opinion that although the nation had decided on disestablishment, it had not agreed as to what was meant by that expression. On the first point, as we are glad to see, the Bishops are in accord with the Liberation Society, and so, we imagine, no difficulty concerning it will be felt if Parliament should decide to disestablish and disendow. With regard to the second point, we are also glad to see the new Archbishop so frankly recognising the fact that the nation has decided on disestablishment, and we are pleased that his qualifying remarks can be so easily met. Dr. Tait has been a member of the Imperial Legislature for too long a period not to be aware—even if ordinary intelligence had not previously informed him—that the details of a Bill are never submitted to the nation. The nation has decided on disestablishment, but it has not quibbled as to the meaning of the word or the thing, for it knew, for all sufficient practical purposes, what was meant. It knew, for instance, that it meant that the Episcopalian Church in Ireland should cease to be a State Church, and be divested of all the privileges of a State Church. That is something. It also knew so much of Mr. Gladstone's future scheme as to be aware, according to the Premier's most explicit declaration, that he did not intend to devote any of the surplus proceeds of the

ecclesiastical property to ecclesiastical purposes of any kind. So far, therefore, we maintain, the nation was agreed at the last election as to what was meant by disestablishment, and such an agreement is all that has ever been demanded. Does the Archbishop think that the nation should be polled upon every clause of Mr. Gladstone's Bill? It has already been polled upon the principle of the Bill; if it is to be polled again we more than doubt whether the clergy of the Irish Church will gain by the process.

On the same day last week as this journal made its appearance, a column of intelligence appeared in the daily papers, headed, "The Bishops at Fishmongers' Hall." As we looked down the report we found amongst the "bishops" Mr. Binney and Mr. Brock. From all that we hear, every one of the bishops—Episcopalian, Congregational, and Baptist—was glad to meet the other. But, how strange it seems, when one thinks upon the matter, that it can be only at a dinner party that bishops of all denominations can be, and feel to be, upon an equality. What we may term Christian instinct would decide that almost the only place where absolute equality would be recognised would be in the Christian Church itself, and yet we find that in the capital of Protestant Christendom the only place is at a Fishmongers' Hall! Does not this indicate that some people's ideas, or, to put the matter more definitely, their Christian hearts, judgments, and consciences, must have got into a very topsy-turvy state? We Free Churchmen, proud although we are of our Free Churchism, as Mr. Binney intimated, are really willing to concede social and ecclesiastical equality to the members of a bondaged Church, yet these men, as it were in a sort of resentment of their own bondage, are really given to look down upon, and speak in patronising terms, of their Free Church brethren. Anyone would really think that *they* were the free and we were the bound.

The *Guardian* has a calm, and, from its own point of view, a well put paper upon the refusal of Government to allow the Irish Convocation to meet. The decision of the Government is regretted, but, at the same time, says our contemporary—

It must be allowed that the clergy on both sides of the Channel have done much to persuade the Government that they are not to be trusted with the conduct of their own affairs. In this respect the Convocation of Canterbury, which may be considered as the leading clerical assembly in England, has done no good service, we are convinced, to the cause of its Irish sisters. Both Houses went out of their way last summer to protest against a policy on which their opinion had never been asked, and on which they had no proper title to be heard. The Episcopal protest had an emphatic and spontaneous unanimity, not generally to be found in their lordships' method of dealing with strictly ecclesiastical subjects. In the Lower House some little attempt was made to moderate the political zeal of the majority, but with no more than a partial effect on the debate, and with the significant result to the counsellors of moderation, that they have since for the most part lost their seats. Some excuse must be made for the Government if they have interpreted the conduct of the clergy and of their representatives as intended to signify that they decline negotiation and deliberation, in favour of the less wholesome employment of scolding those whom they cannot convince.

The *Guardian*, at the same time, indicates the line which it will take, when it says:—"The true justification of the Ministerial refusal, however—if justification there can be—must be looked for in their future policy. *If they are ready to promote, to the utmost of their power, a liberal scheme of self-government for the Anglo-Irish Church on voluntary principles*, they will be excused for having declined meanwhile to allow the revival of an organisation which carried with it the ostentatious parade of ancient political ascendancy." Need we remind the reader that this is from the most influential and the most widely circulated of all the organs of Church opinion in England?

A correspondence is going on in the same journal on the question of disestablishment, and on the expected surplus from the disendowment of the Irish Church. Upon the former question the Rev. J. E. Bode, rector of Castle Camps, writes with reference to the probable duration of the Establishment in England. Mr. Bode, amongst other things, says:—

Will you allow me to follow up a remark, made incidentally in my last letter, with reference to the probable duration of the Church Establishment in England and the conditions on which it would depend. I need scarcely say that my vaticination was founded on a consideration and comparison of certain statements and phrases in Mr. Gladstone's Autobiographical Chapter, coupled with the avowed preference of one of his most distinguished colleagues, and the probable leaning of others, and with the growing feeling against Establishments which must, I think, be admitted to exist. I wish to guard myself against being supposed to acquiesce in that as right which I consider probable. I cannot, indeed, subscribe to the sentiments on the subject of Establishments which I sometimes see rather prominently put forth; as, "Disestablishment the denial of God," and the like. That country cannot reasonably be said to deny God or Christ in which the State extends its protection to each Christian society, securing to each such endowments as it possesses, and dispensing with fairness and impartiality such educational aid as may be given. Nor would the personal religion of any member of any society, who really was religious, suffer, in my opinion, from the absence of an Establishment.

Mr. Bode would like the endowment of the Roman Catholic Church, in order to save the endowments of the Protestant Episcopalian Church. Another correspondent thinks that what has been should still be devoted to religion, but another with prescient ken, says:—"The *principle* of Establishments, their ground and utility, will be sifted, as they never before have been in England, and it behoves both clergymen and laymen to take thought of the future. The topic I would briefly discuss is, what kind of action is advisable for the former."

This writer, clearly an able man, is amused at the theories of Churchmen concerning "the origin of endowments, their private and inalienable nature," and is of opinion that all such theories will be "swept to the winds, as they were at the Reformation, when the Church of England is put upon her trial." But how to prepare for this trial? Political agitation is very strongly deprecated; so is Synodical action. And, with unprecedented caution, says the writer:—"Let us not rely on historical arguments, *or any argument at all. Let us not rely on misapplied texts. The Church, no doubt, is founded on a rock; but it does not follow that the Established Church in England is, nor its ecclesiastical system, under all its present conditions.*"

The writer suggests that only one thing in human agency should be relied upon, and that is the feeling of the laity, as a matter of experience, that the Established Church fulfils its spiritual mission. This is a very fair appeal, but suppose that the laymen should not respond? For, as this writer inquiringly asks:—

I will venture to take one particular. How is the preaching of the English clergy valued by the laity? Are the occasional loud murmurs which reach us through the public press mere ebullitions of a few discontented persons, or signs of a wide-spread dissatisfaction? Does our preaching go to the hearts of the uneducated? Does it inform the minds of the educated? Is not the standard of knowledge, thought, and study, and therefore of preaching, very low? Is there not a fatal idea prevalent that it is enough to be "earnest," while "the hungry sheep look up and are not *fed*"? Is it not common to acquiesce in the notions that sermons must be dull!

True enough; but then, how is it likely that the laity will be successfully appealed to? But we are glad to see one writer take so sensible a ground. That ground is the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of his Church as a spiritual agency. On that alone, we should imagine, there ought to be no difficulty in proving the necessity for disestablishment.

A name long connected with public and especially with public ecclesiastical movements, has dropped this week from all future earthly record. We refer to Dr. John Epps. We do not know how it strikes others, but it has always struck us, in writing such inadequately brief memorials as this must be—memorials read quickly and inevitably forgotten—how utterly inadequate are all human memorials, of whatever kind, of a good man's life. Take our late friend, for instance. How, for years, he thought and worked with all the energy of a most active brain and one of the most benevolent dispositions, for the political, social, ecclesiastical, and physical advancement of his fellow-creatures! We can remember him as foremost in all these battles a generation ago, and he gave to them his sympathy—practical as well as sentimental—to the last days of his life. What record can do justice to such a life? How can we perpetuate its example and its remembrance? It is impossible; but, while we write the words, we regret that we must write them. At this time our friend lies in the residence where his scientific skill has saved so many other lives—that live after him, and when they saw the record of his death, recalled his memory with both gratitude and reverence. Dr. Epps was not old; but he had done the full work of an old man.

LORD DUFFERIN ON ULSTER PROTESTANTS AND THE IRISH CHURCH.

The banquet given at Belfast last week in honour of the success of Mr. M'Clure, the Liberal member, in retaining his seat, was a political demonstration. Lord Dufferin presided. Mr. Kirk, the member for Newry, was unable to attend, being still "far from well." Mr. Maguire, M.P., came from the remote South to offer the hand of friendship to the victors of the North. The representative of Carrickfergus, about whose political opinions some doubts existed, came to give the qualified adhesion of an Orangeman and an ex-member of the Protestant Defence Association to the policy of religious equality. Serjeant Dowse was detained in Derry, listening to Mr. Justice O'Brien's judgment, but he flashed his hearty congratulations by the electric wire. "Ballykilbeg" was there too in spirit, though absent in the flesh. He sent a letter, however, which was almost as welcome as himself, thanking the committee for their kindness in inviting him, and with evident reluctance declining the invitation, as his "presence might be misunderstood, and would be certain to give rise to misrepresentations"; but, at the same time, "while differing from Mr. M'Clure in many important points," giving utterance to the satisfaction, which it may be fairly believed is sincere, that Mr. M'Clure had come so triumphantly out of the ordeal of the petition. His single-minded devotion to truth and justice, and his sense of prudence, have been shocked at the frivolous and vexatious petition, which he declares ought to have discountenanced by the party to which he belongs, and probably was so, though the petitioners, and those whom they represented pressed it forward to their own defeat. His letter was received, as it deserved to be in a Liberal assembly, with "loud and prolonged applause." Lord Dufferin discharged the duties of president with characteristic ability and judgment.

Mr. MAGUIRE, who returned thanks for the House of Commons, declared his sentiments, as the representative of the capital of the South and a Catholic, upon the question of the day. He advocated religious equality as necessary to promote peace, concord, and union among Irishmen. He believed that religion is purified by being separated from the State, and that nothing could be more fatal to the peace of the country and more detrimental to its interests than that any portion of the revenues of the Protestant Church should be torn from it to endow the Church to which he belonged.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing "The Health of Mr. M'Clure," observed that they had met to celebrate the most important political victory which had ever been declared in Ulster. Mr. M'Clure, he said, had done much to advance the prosperity of his native place and the province with which he was connected. Lord Dufferin glanced with a generous forbearance at the circumstances of the election, admitting the high position and character of those who were opposed to him, and the conscientious convictions which they entertained. He pointed out, at the same time, the significance of the Liberal triumph. It was not merely that Mr. M'Clure had been enabled to write M.P. after his name, and that the Presbyterians had been found influential enough to return a member of their own communion, but—

It is this, that when a solemn appeal was made to the population of Ulster—now for the first time admitted to the privileges of the Constitution—as to what in future should be the leading characteristic of the Government of their country, from the four great centres of Protestant wealth and industry, from the chief manufacturing town of Ulster, as well as from the sacred shrine of Orange enthusiasm, from one and all there proceeded the same noble and generous response of religious equality. (Loud cheers.) Gentlemen, such words as these once uttered can never be recalled. No matter what may be the chances of party warfare; no matter who may from time to time succeed to the administration of affairs—the verdict which you have pronounced is irreversible. Religious equality has henceforth become the birthright of every Irishman. Undoubtedly, gentlemen, this result has taken the world a good deal by surprise. Ulster hitherto has been regarded as the fortress of ascendency which it was considered hopeless to assail; but we who lived in the centre of the garrison knew the outworks would collapse on the first onset. Though many of the chiefs of the party remain stanch to their old-world watchwords, the mass of the people belong to a new generation, and refuse to be fettered by obsolete prejudices or separated from the rest of their countrymen by anti-national antipathies. For some time past the approval of Free Kirk principles has been penetrating the Presbyterian body, and under the intrepid leadership of Mr. Johnston the Orangemen of Belfast have shown that the most enthusiastic reverence for the achievements of their ancestors is not incompatible with a love of independence and an earnest desire to obliterate every sense of wrong and injustice from the minds of their Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen. (Applause.) Thanks to this generous development of Protestant opinion—a development which I must be allowed to say has been met with the most perfect loyalty on the part of the Roman Catholic sections of the constituencies—the Liberal flag floats in triumph over four of the ancient fortresses of ascendancy—Belfast, Carrickfergus, Newry, and the Maiden City. The importance of these victories cannot be overrated, demonstrating, as they do, the numbers, the ability, the influence, and the power of those who, though themselves Protestant, are still determined that religious equality should prevail from one end of Ireland to the other. They cannot fail to strengthen the hands of Mr. Gladstone in the House of Commons, and to induce those of our fellow Churchmen who have conscientiously opposed the impending change to accept with composure the verdict of Parliament and acquiesce in the national will. Above all things, they will lead our Roman Catholic fellow countrymen to observe that the prescriptive privileges of the two endowed Churches of Ireland have been surrendered, not at the dictation of an alien majority in the British House of Parliament, but with the concurrence and by the assistance of a large section of their own Protestant fellow-countrymen, who have hastened to give this supreme proof of their desire for a united Ireland.

The approving plaudits of the company attested the force of these remarks. He paid a tribute to the patriotic spirit which induced the Protestants of Ulster to abjure the emoluments derived from the State, and confide the future of their Church to the voluntary principle, which, with perfect consistency, they may regard with misgiving, if not with dislike. He added:—

And when it is remembered that the disproportion between the Roman Catholics and the Protestants, which has so exercised the English conscience, is absent from the North, where many of our parishes are purely Protestant, most of them miserably endowed, and that therefore the taint of injustice does not so distinctly cling to our northern temporalities as to most of the benefices in the South of Ireland, we may admire that singleness of heart which has enabled so large a proportion of the population of Ulster to look at this question in its larger bearings, and to be content with a settlement which, however inimical to some of their

interests, cannot fail to be productive of peace to their native land. That the disestablishment of the Church will tend to the production of peace and good feeling is, I think, to be gathered as much from the desponding vaticinations of the opponents of the measure as from the predictions of its supporters. Often and often have I been warned that the integrity of the Empire depends upon the loyalty of the North; that the loyalty of the Presbyterians is dependent upon the *Regium donum*, and that of the Orangemen upon the recognition by Government of their claims to ecclesiastical supremacy; that if these safeguards be overthrown, there will take place a great democratic fusion between the Protestant and Catholic masses; that the confederacy of the United Irishmen will revive, and the tenant farmers of the North will band with the peasantry of the South in an attack upon the land and the integrity of the Union. ("No, no!") But it is this very fusion of the people that every man that loves his country desires to see accomplished; and if property and the integrity of the Union is to be defended, it must be by other means than by a paternal Government pitting one religious community against another. No people can be happy whose religious antipathies hinder the gravitation of popular sentiment in whatever direction is most natural to its social affinities and material interests. Government under such circumstances becomes as impossible as would be the attempt to steer a ship by an unadjusted compass perpetually oscillating between opposite centres of local attraction. (Hear.) Had it not been distorted by fanaticism, popular opinion in Ulster would have long since become assimilated in its Liberal tendencies to that prevailing amid the kindred population in Scotland. The stratification of thought and feeling in the two countries is identical; but local disturbances generated on this side the Channel have interposed between us what geologists call "a fault," and have given a twist and bias to the whole structure of Protestant politics in Ireland. Thanks, however, to Mr. Gladstone, thanks to you, gentlemen, who have returned to Parliament members so able to second him in his endeavours, this unnatural state of things is soon destined to pass away. A Ministry has succeeded to office whose sole desire is to gratify the legitimate wishes of a united Irish people—not seeking popularity by an attempt to govern through this party or that, or by the sacrifice of one interest to another, but determined to win your confidence by the most fearless impartiality, by the most humane interpretation of its duties, and by gratifying to the utmost those national aspirations which, born as they are of a lofty and sensitive patriotism, are apt when thwarted and discouraged to degenerate into discontent and disaffection, but which, when duly organised and cherished, cannot fail to add dignity, grace, and strength to the Imperial union of this country with Great Britain. Gentlemen, I believe it is opinions similar to this that our friend Mr. M'Clure is prepared to advocate and support in Parliament, and therefore, in proposing his health, I refer to him not merely as your honoured and familiar friend, but as your trusted representative.

The toast was duly honoured, and responded to by Mr. M'Clure.

THE NEW BISHOP OF LONDON AND HIS CLERGY.

On Saturday afternoon an address of welcome was presented to Dr. Jackson in the hall of Sion College, signed by a large number of the clergy of the City and Archdeaconry of London. The right rev. prelate, after reading a brief and formal reply, addressed the gathering at some length in a more familiar manner. In the course of his remarks he said:—

He had been for many years an old-fashioned English Churchman, and he believed that it was the glory, if not one of the distinctive principles of the Church, that she was at the same time Protestant and Catholic—Protestant in the attitude of opposition to the innovations of the Church of Rome, and Catholic as a sound and living member of that one Church which was the body of Christ. She was all the more sound because she was reformed, and he would unhesitatingly express his belief that the Reformation was a blessing, and not, as had been represented in many quarters, a crime. (Applause.) Such being the case, he need hardly add that to him the Bible was the word of God, the only legitimate appeal on all questions of doctrine as well as in the determination of all principles of practice. While he always desired to make it known that such were his principles, he believed that, not only in theory but in practice, they were compatible not only with toleration and difference of opinion, but with esteem, respect, and affection towards those who opposed them. It had been the happiness of his life to number among his intimate friends those from whom he differed on many important points, but with regard to whom those differences never weakened his esteem and affection; and he thought he might venture to say with regard to the diocese he had left, notwithstanding controversies had arisen, that the regard and affection which had subsisted between the bishop and the clergy had never been weakened by any differences, even with those to whom he had been called upon to act in the character of "Ordinary." It seemed to him that the Church of England allowed a considerable amount of latitude to those who were loyal members of her communion; but he thought those limits were considerably overpassed when one among them was allowed to hold that the Resurrection was an open doctrine, while another claimed the right to interpret the Articles of the Church of England as being in harmony and identical with the decrees of the Council of Trent. It was at one time the dream of his life that the differences which existed in the Church were rapidly passing away, and that they would live to see the time when all minor differences, at least, would disappear. That dream was now dissipated. It might be so in the future, but he should not live to see it. The course of events had tended lately to widen differences rather than to draw members of the Church together. The spirit of the age had penetrated into the Church. The aggressive activity of intellect which called all first principles in question, which took nothing for granted, which delighted in perplexities, and which allowed no prescription to be any evidence of truth or ground of persuasion—the spirit of anomaly which was abroad, which they found in literature, which they found in politics, which they found in the Church—were portentous signs. All these things had been acting among themselves, and the reaction which ensued always tended to widen the differences, and to set parties more in opposition than before. This appeared to him to be not an improper description of the state in which the Church was at present placed. In this state of things he would not pretend to suggest any remedy. The real remedy was, to appeal to Him who was always near when danger appeared to be most imminent, and who, if He pleased, could say to the troubled waters, "Be still." He did not think that errors of doctrine would ever be cured by decisions of law courts. Such decisions seldom succeeded in silencing—they never succeeded in persuading. Perhaps he should not carry all with him to the same extent when he expressed his conviction that differences of opinion or errors of doctrine could be cured by what was called "Church speaking." They had been told in many quarters that if the Church would but speak, all differences would be settled. If the Church were to speak by the united force of the Episcopate, aided by learned men in theology and law, or by the voice of Convocation, of one, two, or four provinces, or by diocesan or provincial synods, or by general councils, he believed that the result would be pretty much the same—namely, that those whose opinions were condemned would contend that the Church had not spoken, or that the Church had made a mistake. (Hear, hear.)

CAMBRIDGE AND LONDON DEGREES.

(*From the Cambridge Independent.*)

The result of the last Mathematical Tripos shows that two things are needed to be done by the University—first to acknowledge London degrees, and secondly to throw open the fellowships, irrespective of religious denomination. It is said that the main reason why the University of Cambridge ignores officially the University of London is because in the latter University no residence is required, and therefore it would be unfair to place their graduates upon the same footing. When graduation at Cambridge, Oxford, or Dublin alone conferred a privilege of electing representatives to Parliament, the objection was founded upon some certain show of right, but now that London is represented by its member the reason for the distinction falls. If however, it should be thought necessary to disallow the claim of London graduates being registered as graduates of Cambridge simply upon the ground of non-residence, there would be no great hardship; but events of the last few years have shown that the chief honours in mathematics have been carried off by gentlemen who have had the advantage of previously testing their mathematical capabilities under the most favourable auspices, and who contend in the fight for honours with men their inferiors for want of previous training. The natural question that suggests itself is whether this is fair to the majority of the students. The subject is one of great interest, and probably admits of more discussion and longer arguments than can be compressed in one article. But the present Tripos presents another remarkable feature—the presence of two graduates from Dublin University, Mr. Waymouth, of Queen's, and Mr. Popham, of Downing, the former of whom was second wrangler, and the latter twenty-first wrangler. Both these gentlemen had already received an education, and carried off honours at a university whose degrees are recognised at Cambridge. Can there be any reason for allowing them to begin a university course *de novo*? If a university recognises the degree conferred by another university at all, such recognition ought not to rest at the mere pleasure of a person himself, but he ought not to be permitted to join the new corporation, except he take the *status* he holds in his old Alma Mater. An extract from the London University records will show how, during the last twenty-one years, it has educated the future wranglers of Cambridge:—During the last twenty-one years, among the London University men who have graduated at Cambridge, there have been eight senior wranglers, six second, five third, four fourth, and seven fifth, making a total of thirty among the first five. Since 1836 there have also been about a hundred and fifty wranglers from King's College, London. The second point, throwing open the fellowships to persons of all religious denominations, is one that must be conceded at no very distant time. Not to be able to reward a gentleman who has proved himself to be the most distinguished mathematician of this celebrated mathematical university is one of those glaring inconsistencies which must be removed. The very fact that in 1837 a similar case occurred, when Mr. (now Professor) Sylvester was second wrangler, and the more recent instances of Mr. Aldis and Mr. Hartog, will draw public attention to the matter; and we are sure that it is only necessary that the colleges should have the option to elect such disqualified persons, for it would be done cheerfully. The recent noble protest from the fellows of Trinity College shows their feeling in the matter; and it is only reasonable to suppose that the other colleges would not act in a more illiberal spirit.

"MINISTERS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS" AT FISHMONGERS' HALL.

The Prime Warden and the Wardens of the Worshipful Company of the Fishmongers gave a grand court banquet on Tuesday evening to the bishops. The Archbishop of Canterbury was to have been the chief guest, but a sudden death in his family, as appeared from a letter read during the proceedings, prevented his promised appearance.

The Archbishop of YORK responded to the toast of "The House of Peers." He said:—I, for my part, have no hesitation as a bishop of the Church in this country in returning thanks for the House of Peers, and I have no objection to say a word in vindication of our position there; and in presence of this distinguished company I say I do not expect that upon general political considerations we shall be asked to retire from that House. (Laughter.) We are, in fact, the truly Liberal element therein. (Laughter.) We are the only life peers, and, moreover, the country stands by while we in the Church of England have the great bulk of the religious teaching and education of the country in our hands, so that we are not only life, but in a great measure representative peers. (Laughter and cheers.) Therefore, standing in the House of Lords, representing great and popular institutions, whatever the future may be, I hope that no changes that may befall will ever weaken the efficiency of the House of Lords as a substantial element in this great and glorious constitution. (Cheers.)

The Bishop of OXFORD responded to the toast of "The Bishops and Clergy of the Church of England." In the course of his speech he said he believed in his conscience, from personal knowledge, there never was a time when the body of the Church of England clergy laboured more abundantly and earnestly, and upon the whole with greater success in their high avocations than at the present time. Although there were eccentricities here and there, which he for one deeply lamented to see, they were marks of life and not of stagnation; and he for one would rather have hearty life with eccentricities than sleepiness with propriety. (Cheers.) There never was a time when the people of England owed more to their clergy than now. He might say the same of his brother bishops.

The Hon. A. KINNAIRD, M.P., returned thanks for "The House of Commons."

The PRIME WARDEN next gave, "The ministers of all denominations." He said he had a strong sympathy with Christians of all denominations, and this toast had been delayed longer than he could wish, through no fault of his. He hoped his right reverend guests would not consider him a weak brother when he told them that he thanked God there would be no distinction between archbishop and bishop, Wesleyan, Independent, or Baptist in heaven. (Cheers.) They were favoured with the company of men who were ornaments to the different sects to which they belonged. The Rev. Thomas Binney had done a better work in London than most men of whom he knew—(cheers)—and there was no minister in the Church of God more esteemed or able than he. (Cheers.) The chairman also mentioned in eulogistic terms the names of the Rev. Dr. Brock and the Rev. Mr. Osborn, whom, with Mr. Binney, he heartily welcomed to Fishmongers' Hall. (Loud cheers.)

The Rev. THOS. BINNEY, in a brief and humorous speech, which kept the company in continual laughter, returned thanks. He said he and his friends represented three denominations, and, as the Bishop of Oxford had remarked, diversities indicated life, although at the root they held the same fundamental principles of the faith. Hence there was variety of opinion amongst Nonconformists as there was in the Church of England. (Laughter.) The Bishop of Oxford knew very well that in his Church there were three schools of thought, or denominations—(loud laughter)—and he (Mr. Binney) singularly enough was representing three denominations at the present time. The venerable speaker, in conclusion, caused much amusement by stating that three young men commenced their careers in the Isle of Wight together, and their names were Walter Farquhar Hook, Samuel Wilberforce, who was a nice-looking, promising young man—(laughter)—who made a good speech at one of his (the speaker's) Bible meetings, and Thomas Binney. (Cheers.) One had become a dean, the other a bishop, and the other was on what some would call the shady side of the hedge; but he did not regret it. (Loud cheers and laughter, in which the Bishop of Oxford heartily joined.)

The Rev. Dr. BROCK, in responding, told the bishops that they could not get rid of the Nonconformists, nor the Nonconformists of them; they were all "in for it," and the coming changes that were so much talked about would affect the one as much as the other. His belief was that they were all not only "in for it," but fit for it. (Cheers.)

Mr. Justice LUSH, representing the judges, congratulated the judges and the public on the way in which his learned brethren had carried out the Bribery Act.

The Bishop of PETERBOROUGH referred to Ireland in his speech. He likened Ireland to an old woman in the Dublin hospital. She was "bad in her inside," as Ireland was said to be now, and saw with dismay all the students, note-book in hand, round her bed. Turning to the head physician, she said, "Och, yer honour, shure all thim boys are not going to dhoctor me at once!" He hoped any remedial measures would begin, like homœopathy, with the smallest dose. His idea of legislation was summed up in the words of the man who went about the country with a happy family of birds and beasts. "What," said a gentleman, "are the rules upon which you govern them?" The man answered, "Well, sir, you see what I does is this: fust of all I treats 'em well; then I feeds 'em well; then, sir, if they fights, I wallops 'em well." (Loud laughter.) It was very much to be questioned whether these three operations had not hitherto been very uncertainly administered.

LIBERATION MEETING AND DISCUSSION AT PLYMOUTH.—A *soirée* in connection with the Liberation Society was held on Tuesday, the 9th inst., in the spacious schoolrooms of Union Chapel (Independent), Courtenay-street, Plymouth. Tea was served at half-past six. At half-past seven the company adjourned to the large room, and our veteran friend, Mr. Peter Adams, was voted with acclamation to the chair. He called upon Dr. John Stock, of Devonport, to introduce the subject of discussion for the evening. That gentleman then read

a paper on "The Voluntaryism of the Old Testament; or, the Jewish nation and its Divine institutions no argument for modern establishments of Christianity." The paper was extremely well received, and was often interrupted with hearty applause. A spirited discussion ensued, in which several ministers and others took part. Dr. Stock replied at length to the various points raised in the course of the discussion. A vote of thanks to that gentleman "for his very admirable and instructive paper," and to the chairman, closed the interesting proceedings. The Plymouth and Devonport committee have held other meetings of this kind previously, and have found them draw together a large number of thoughtful intelligent young men, the very class we seek more especially to influence. Similar meetings are to follow in various districts of the three towns. We respectfully recommend similar activity in this direction to our other local committees.

The Bishop of Carlisle has been recommended to retire from active duties for a season. The Right Rev. Bishop Anderson, rector of Clifton, will undertake his duties.

The Rev. W. Martin Hunnybun, vicar of Bicknoller, Somersetshire, was received into the Catholic Church last week by Father Maude of the Oratory.—*Weekly Register.*

The proprietor of the *Universal News*, a Roman Catholic newspaper, has commenced an action against the Roman Catholic Bishop of Birmingham for libel on the paper contained in one of the bishop's pastoral charges.

THE IRISH CHURCH AND ITS BISHOPS.—The Bishop of Ossory (Dr. O'Brien) has issued a circular to his clergy, stating that he cannot comply with their request to appoint a day of humiliation in view of the present circumstances of the Irish Church, "legal objections" being an obstacle in the way; but he advises, as the Archbishop of Dublin has also done, that on the first Sunday in Lent, "that which immediately precedes the assembling of Parliament," the people should be urged, in their church and family devotions, to pray specially that, by the consultations of the Legislature, all things may be "so ordered and settled that religion and piety may be established among us for all generations."

THE JEW AND THE CATHOLIC.—The daily papers inform us that Baron de Rothschild has presented the Rev. C. S. Grubbe, M.A., of Jesus College, Oxford, late archdeacon of Maritzburg, to the vicarage of Mentmore, Bucks. From this it appears that a Jew can present to Anglican livings, although a Catholic cannot. The Duke of Norfolk is patron of thirteen livings, the Marquis of Bute of ten, Lord Dunraven of seven, Lord Orford of seven, Lord Gainsborough of seven, Lord Beaumont of one, Lord Stourton of one, Lord Petre of five, Lord Arundell of Wardour of two, and Lord Clifford of three—in all fifty-six livings, besides many others of which Catholic commoners are patrons, but not one of them can present to these livings, although a Jew who is a patron can do so.—*Weekly Register.*

MEETING OF BISHOPS.—The English and Irish bishops met on Tuesday and Thursday at Lambeth Palace. The absences from illness were very numerous. The *John Bull* states that the Bishop of Worcester was the most prominent absentee without any cause. The subjects discussed were the Irish Church and Ritualism. As to the first, a general feeling was elicited that if disestablishment took place the Church must be absolutely free. The Archbishop of Canterbury expressed, however, an opinion that, though the nation had decided on disestablishment, it had not agreed as to what was meant by that expression. The Archbishop of Armagh concurred in this view, which did not, however, meet with general support. Their lordships resolved that they should not issue any joint manifesto on the Ritual question, but each in his own diocese give the best advice in his power.

CLERICAL DRESS.—The Bishop of Norwich has appointed the following subject for discussion at a ruri-decanal meeting to be held at Shipmeadow:—"1. Is it desirable to attempt the correction of the alleged discrepancies between the long-established usage and the letter of the law of the Church in reference to the vestments to be used by the minister in public worship? If so, 2, is it desirable to enforce unvarying uniformity of habit, or to allow, within defined limits, certain variations? 3. In case of variations being allowed, should their adoption be at the single discretion of the minister, or with the consent of the ordinary, opportunity having been first given to the congregation to show cause against such consent being granted? 4. In what way may the public opinion of the clergy and laity be best obtained upon the subject before it is dealt with in Parliament and in Convocation

SYDNEY SMITH AND CHURCH ESTABLISHMENTS.—On Wednesday evening last, the first of a course of lectures to the Ipswich Young Men's Auxiliary Liberation Society was delivered by Mr. Carvell Williams, who chose as his subject, "The Public and Home Life of Sydney Smith." Prominence was given to Sydney Smith's descriptions of the Irish Church Establishment, which, the lecturer said, were as effective and as diverting as anything which had been written on that now well-worn subject, and also to his advocacy of the policy of endowing the Roman Catholic clergy, to which not a few Whig politicians were still inclined to cling. The letters to Archdeacon Singleton also afforded an opportunity for showing that one of the effects of an Establishment was to depress merit by bringing what Sydney Smith called capital and respectability into the Church. The lecturer said, that while the reverend Canon's work of resisting Church reform would now be considered coarse and imprudent, he had, in fact, only defended, in a homely and straightforward way, a system which was now upheld in a more politic fashion. The quotations of Sydney Smith's witticisms, says the *Suffolk Chronicle*, occasioned considerable merriment, and the other portions of the lecture were frequently greeted with hearty applause.

AN IRISH "LIVING."—There is a preferment in the Irish Church Establishment which should come well to the light before it disappears for ever. It is a living, and it is nothing else than a living. The Chantry of St. Mary, in the parish of St. Nicholas-within-the-Walls, Dublin, was founded and endowed by gift from the Earl of Worcester and some citizens of Dublin in the reign of King Edward IV. A chantry, be it known, is a little chapel or particular altar in a church, endowed for the maintenance of a priest to sing masses to redeem out of purgatory the souls of the founders, and of all the faithful deceased. The election of a "chanter," or souls' priest, for this Dublin chantry, is in the parishioners, and the Court of Queen's Bench have decided that none but members of the Established Church can vote. It is some time since there was an election, the present "chanter," known now by the more acceptable name of chaplain, having held the post for many years. The duties prescribed for him the law now forbids him to perform in a church or chapel of the Establishment—in fact, he has no duties to perform, and he discharges none, except one which occurs quarterly or half-yearly, as he has about 300 guineas a year to receive. Except with the licence of the bishop, and permission of the incumbent, he could neither perform nor assist in service in the church of St. Nicholas; and if he did so it would be his voluntary act, and neither a right nor a duty. There was a very large number of these chantries in England formerly, but in the reigns of Henry VIII. and Edward VI. their revenues were all confiscated to the Crown, and the chantries abolished. St. Mary's Chantry in Dublin is supposed to be the last of the race in the United Kingdom.

Religious and Denominational News.

PRESTON.—The Rev. E. Bolton, of Brixton-hill, has accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation to the pastorate at Lancaster-road Chapel, Preston, and will commence his ministry there on the second Lord's-day in March.

LEAMINGTON.—The Rev. F. S. Attenborough, of Uckfield, Sussex, has accepted a cordial invitation to the pastorate of the Congregational Church, Holly Walk, Leamington, and purposes commencing his stated labours on the first Lord's day in March.

LAMBETH PALACE SERVICES.—On Sunday afternoon, at four o'clock, there was the first of a series of special services in the private chapel of the Archbishop of Canterbury, at Lambeth Palace. The chapel was well filled, but not overcrowded, admission having been obtained by tickets. The service was plain, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. T. J. Rowsell, M.A., rector of St. Margaret's, Lothbury, and Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen.

STRATFORD.—On Tuesday evening, at the recognition service of the Rev. J. Knaggs, recently elected minister to the new Congregational church at Stratford, a handsome timepiece and two handsome chimney ornaments were presented to that gentleman by his late congregation at Lower Clapton. The new church at Stratford was erected at a total cost of from 15,000*l.* to 20,000*l.*, the memorial stone being laid about two years ago by Mr. S. Morley. Mr. Knaggs has just been appointed minister, having previously officiated at Lower Clapton, and his late congregation took the opportunity to show to him their appreciation of his character and talents. The presentation was made by the Rev. F. Soden, in the presence of from 800 to 1,000 spectators.

DERBY.—A meeting was held in London-road Congregational Chapel, last Thursday evening, to celebrate the extinction of the debt upon the chapel property—about 600*l.* After tea a public meeting was held in the upper schoolroom. The pastor, the Rev. H. Ollard, F.S.A., presided. Mr. S. Whitaker, treasurer to the fund for the extinction of the debt, read the list of contributors, after which the chapel property was pronounced free from debt, and the assembly united in singing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." In the course of his address Mr. Ollard paid a just tribute to the liberality and zeal of those gentlemen by whom, upwards of a quarter of a century ago, their noble sanctuary was erected. The Revs. H. Crassweller, B.A., T. Goadby, B.A., J. Merwood, and Mr. George, also took part in the proceedings of the evening.

CUCKFIELD.—A new schoolroom at Cuckfield, Sussex, for the education of the industrial classes, and for the use of the Independent Sunday-school, has been erected at a cost of nearly 700*l.* It was opened on Monday, the 8th inst., by a public meeting, at which Charles Reed, Esq., M.P., presided. A report, drawn up by the Rev. J. Stuchbery, B.A., stating the condition of the schools, was read, and subsequently able addresses were delivered by the chairman and several gentlemen. On Tuesday, the 9th inst., a tea was provided for the parents of the children, after which Daniel Pratt, Esq., presided over a public meeting. On Wednesday, the 10th inst., an entertainment was given to the children. After tea, Mr. G. B. Chapman, of the Sunday-school Union, delivered an admirable lecture, entitled, "England to Abyssinia," illustrated with beautiful panoramic views. George Knott, Esq., presided. The schoolroom was tastefully decorated for the occasion with evergreens, mottoes, &c. The attendance throughout was good.

BIRMINGHAM.—Special services were held on Tuesday, January 26, in celebration of the opening of Saltley-road Independent Chapel, Birmingham, the building of which has been recently completed. It is a geometrical Gothic design. There is accommodation for about 800 people. The appearance of the interior is pleasing and comfortable, and it is very rarely that so substantial and handsome a building has been erected at a cost of 1,500*l.* This satisfactory result is due chiefly to the exertions of the architect and pastor, Mr. George Ingall, who has made excellent use of the space and funds at his disposal. The total cost will slightly exceed 1,600*l.*, towards which sum 1,100*l.* has already been subscribed, and there are further promises which will increase it to 1,300*l.*, leaving 200*l.* to be raised by collections at the opening services, and those promised to be held in the town congregations. There was a large attendance at the morning service, including many ministers, and the Rev. Dr. Parker, of Manchester, preached the sermon. After the service the members of the congregation and visitors sat down to a cold collation in the schoolroom. Amongst those present were the Revs. Dr. Parker, R. W. Dale, Professor Barker, G. B. Johnson, M. Macfie, W. F. Callaway; Alderman Manton, Councillor Perkins, Mr. J. S. Wright, Mr. J. A. Cooper, &c. There was an evening service, at which the Rev. R. W. Dale, M.A., preached the sermon to a numerous congregation. The collections amounted to 53*l.* 11s. 3d.

Correspondence.

THE WESLEYANS AND THE *NONCONFORMIST.*

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—As one of those members of the Wesleyan connexion who feel an increasing interest in the views you advocate on the question of Church and State, I venture to submit to your notice "a rock of offence" over which not a few of us Wesleyans have stumbled in regard to that matter.

An article of yours, published, I am told, many years back, reflecting in very severe and bitter terms on the character and action of Conference, was reprinted and put into circulation in this city at the late election, and also, I believe, at Cheltenham, with the object of damaging the Liberal cause by exciting the indignation of Wesleyan electors against one of its prominent representatives.

The elections are now over, but the impression produced in many minds by the tone of that article is a disagreeable one, and really stands in the way of the success among Wesleyans of your other teachings. I do not believe you would now say what you said of the Wesleyan Conference fifteen years ago. If your opinions of that body have been modified in its favour by anything that has occurred in the meantime, I feel sure you will not be reluctant to confess as much, particularly if by doing so you brighten the prospects of the great undertaking on which you have been engaged so many years. I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

A WESLEYAN FREE CHURCHMAN.

Bristol, F 1, 1869.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY DEGREES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The Senate of the University of Glasgow has requested me to intimate "that for the future those of its graduates who shall produce certificates of attendance at a due course of training in any of the English or Welsh theological colleges, shall be eligible for the degree of Bachelor of Divinity, which is conferred after examination." As this degree cannot be obtained by Dissenters at any English University, the value of this liberal regulation is obvious.

I am, faithfully yours,

WILLIAM E. GRIGSBY, M.A.

Glasgow, February 15, 1869.

MILL-HILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I read with considerable surprise the report of the late meeting of the friends of the Mill-hill Grammar School, which appeared in your last issue. I was very glad to find that the managers were alive to the necessity of making important changes in the government and constitution of the school; but I was equally sorry to observe that the only change they were prepared to announce publicly was one which casts dishonour implicitly on the whole Dissenting community, and which disclosed on their own part a total misapprehension of the true functions of a head master.

It is the fashion with some Church-people to speak contemptuously of Dissenters as a sort of ill-educated mob; and such calumniators have now been furnished with an excellent text by the Mill-hill Committee. The Dissenters of England probably exceed, certainly equal in number, the Episcopalians; and yet, forsooth, we must despair of finding among them a single man qualified to undertake the duties of head master of the oldest and most celebrated Dissenting school!

What is proposed? Simply this: to have a Churchman to *do* the teaching, and a Dissenting chaplain to *do* the religion and morals. Why, Sir, any intelligent man who has had the slightest experience, would know that such an arrangement would not work harmoniously for two months. But there is another far deeper objection than this. There can be no *healthy manly tone* in a school where the head master is a mere instructing machine. He must be the friend and guide of his boys,

and to him they must look up *in all matters* as their highest authority in school. With such a head a school becomes a unity, a well-compacted properly organised whole. He is emphatically the head of the establishment, and to each boy stands *in loco parentis*. It is not necessary that he be a minister or a clergyman, any more than it is that every father of a family should be such; but he must be qualified to superintend the religious instruction of those who are placed in his charge, and his interest in them must be so deep that he would indignantly refuse to cede to another his own most sacred privilege.

It seems strange indeed that a properly qualified Dissenter cannot be found to undertake the duties of this head mastership. But, whoever be appointed, whether Churchman or Dissenter, let him be really, and not nominally, head master. It is always dangerous to set up an *imperium in imperio*, in this case it would certainly be fatal. I maintain, in the strongest terms, that such a patchwork scheme as that proposed is, in its very nature, weak and flimsy, and would inevitably, after a very short trial, fall to pieces.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

L. A. O.

February 13, 1869.

THE UTILISATION OF PLACES OF WORSHIP.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The letters which have appeared in your columns on this subject have hardly, I think, done justice to it. Some incidental features of the question rather than the principle involved have been discussed; and as there are still a multitude of people who believe that churches and chapels ought, on no consideration, to be used for any other purpose than that of public worship, it may be worth while to examine the soundness of this view.

Should places of worship be applied to any secular objects whatever? Putting aside the Roman Catholic idea of sacredness—though it is perhaps less tenaciously held on the continent than by Episcopalians in England—a few questions may throw some light on the matter. Does the dedication of a building to Divine service constitute its sanctity? Is it the act of dedication, or the use to which the church is applied, that imparts to it this exclusive quality? If the former, then we have in essence the priestly dogma of consecration. If the latter, it can only be vindicated on the plea that God is more honoured in a building devoted exclusively to Himself—which is a Jewish and not a Christian sentiment—or that a place with which hallowed thoughts are associated ought not to be lowered to secular objects.

Now this reverence for a mere building, though it should be treated with due respect, will hardly bear investigation. It involves insuperable difficulties. If the sentiment be sound, why not apply it to the schoolroom in which church and prayer-meetings are held, or to the family hearth where household worship is carried on. Are the religious feelings of the worshippers at St. James's Hall on Sunday outraged by the fact that on the week-day the same building is used for concerts and all kinds of public meetings?

Looked at in the light of the Gospel dispensation, the principle which underlies this prejudice, as it must be called, will not bear close examination. It is inconsistent with the essential spirituality of Christ's kingdom. It restricts the scope of the religious sentiment, engenders false views of the special relations of our common Father to the individual soul, encourages dependence on "the weak and beggarly elements," and favours the idea that God is, is a sense, confined to temples made with hands. By nourishing this prejudice, we bestow upon the buildings where we meet for common worship, and which *we* have erected, some portion of the reverence which is due alone to the Eternal Spirit. And we allow this spurious sentiment to become a hurtful snare—a superstition which limits our means of usefulness, and prevents us from utilising places of worship, erected at immense cost, to purposes which would elevate and refine humanity, and thereby make it more open to religious influences.

One practical illustration will suffice to test the soundness of this prejudice in favour of the sanctity of places of worship. Would any conscientious Christian wish that Surrey Chapel had not been used for what are called secular objects? It is in evidence that the week-day lectures and social meetings there have awakened in hundreds, perhaps thousands, who do not attend public worship, better and purer tastes and nobler sentiments which have kept them from animal and debasing indulgences. They have placed that house of prayer in connection with the outside world, and have induced large numbers to attend on Sundays as well as the week-days. Class prejudices have by their influence been broken down, and those who have cared little for religion have had new yearnings and sympathies created. Thus by ignoring a superstitious notion, Mr. Newman Hall and his coadjutors have been able to increase their means of usefulness, and to benefit alike the Church and the world. Are we called upon to regret this result, and weak enough to contend that a false sentiment of sanctity, which we associate with bricks and mortar, is more Godlike and beneficial than the mental, moral, and indirectly the spiritual, instruction of the multitude; or that it can be in harmony with the Divine declaration that a human soul is of more value than the whole world? There can be but one reply to this searching test. It will hardly be contended by any one that the relationship between the great mass of the working classes and our churches is so close that we can afford to dispense with such helps.

Suppose, now, this superstitious reverence for places of worship, whether consecrated by a prelate or dedicated by a minister, were all at once to vanish. The seal of exclusiveness on not hundreds, but thousands of buildings throughout the country would be broken, and they might then, as circumstances required, be utilised for good purposes. Our churches, instead of appearing isolated temples, would at least *seem* to belong to the mass of the population. Those who went on the week-day to the lecture or political or philanthropic meeting would be all the more disposed to go on the Lord's day. Having received a welcome on one occasion, they would not be so likely to shrink back on another. Professing Christians would be less prone to separate religious from secular affairs; people outside more ready to see that all good movements, all efforts to cultivate the mental powers, elevate daily life and provide healthful recreation—obtained a religious sanction. Philanthropic workers would not be driven to hole-or-corner places or public-house rooms; and in process of time our places of worship might be turned to as good account as St. James's Hall.

All this implies not only a great change of feeling, but a surrender of much that ministers to our pride and taste. No doubt, if places of worship should be thus used, their splendour would be dimmed, their fittings less luxurious, and the keeping them up, and of them becoming more costly. But could not that be endured for the sake of a palpable religious good? Is not Surrey Chapel, somewhat dingy though it be from frequent use, a nobler object of contemplation than the thousands of churches, smart and unsoiled as a drawing-room, which only open their doors twice in the week to a select and fastidious congregation?

Far be from me to assert that the mere surrender of this spirit of exclusiveness would inaugurate a religious revolution. That must come from the piety, zeal, union, and efforts of the Christian world. But once get rid of the spurious idea of sanctity attaching to churches and chapels, and the appliances at the command of the religious and social missionary would become indefinitely multiplied. The glory of our sanctuaries would no longer be bound up with æsthetic notions, comfortable fittings, well-cushioned seats, and middle-class exclusiveness, but with souls born to new life, and the elevation of humanity.

Yours faithfully,

OPEN CHURCH.

A BURIAL CASE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I beg to lay before you a case that lately occurred in the parish of Arlecdon, near Whitehaven, which has stirred up a great deal of excitement in the minds of the people.

On the 23rd December of last year a little girl died, aged five years, and application having been made to the proper authorities to have it interred, the clergyman instructed the clerk to inform the parents that he would not read the burial service because the child was not baptized (the parents believe it wrong to baptize children), and that all charges must be paid before burial. The clerk, however, did not tell the parents about the payment till after the funeral, and then they only paid the clerk for his duties, believing the clergyman had no claim, as he performed no duty. As it is the first person, so far as is known, who has been interred in this place without the service of the clergyman, much sympathy was shewn towards the parents, and anything but kindly feelings towards the clergyman by the people in attendance, when they were informed of all the circumstances of the case by a friend at the close of the interment. In a few days afterwards the clergyman waited upon his clerk to know what had been done about the fees, and learning that his claim had not been paid, told the clerk at once to return what he had received, and either to get all or take none. If refused, he would find means of obtaining payment. The parents refused to take the money back or to pay any more, and at last the clerk laid it on a table in the room and left.

On the 10th January of the present year, just eighteen days after the girl's death, a son also died, aged seven years; and being a fever case, the doctor ordered that the body should be buried as soon as possible. Application was at once made to those in authority, and as this one had been baptized, it was thought that no trouble would now result. But no. The clergyman first appointed an hour for the interment, two hours before the joiner could have the coffin ready, and also demanded that all fees be paid, both for this one and the last, before the ground would be allowed to be broken. Being ignorant of the law in these matters, there was no course left in the emergency but submission—certainly not with goodwill, because of the intolerant spirit manifested under the guise of Christianity.

Now, Sir, will you be kind enough to give us all the information you can in connection with the law in this affair in your next issue, for many are anxious to know what are their rights and what are the priest's, and whether the churchyard belongs to the priest or the people?

Yours, &c.,

NONCONFORMIST.

[According to the law as it at present stands the churchyard is the parson's freehold with certain obligations attaching to it. The incumbent can legally refuse to perform any service over an unbaptized person, and however harsh and uncharitable was the conduct of the clergyman in the second case referred to, he could not be made amenable to the law. The great thing is to get the law altered and throw open parish burial-grounds as in Ireland.—ED. *Noncon.*]

THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me a place in your columns to advocate a cause which I am sure will commend itself to your notice, when its claims shall have become known?

Some four years ago I was living in the Australian bush, and had every opportunity of becoming acquainted with the condition of the gold-diggers and settlers in those parts. Spiritually, it is sad indeed. Nothing could be more deplorable than their apparent unconcern about anything religious, which with most of them has become to mean something traditional, and belonging to a state of things they deem themselves happy in having escaped from. I do not speak of those living in the neighbourhood of townships, though indifference with them is fast growing into a confirmed apathy it requires all the diligence of our ministers to arouse,—a statement which could be evidenced by the fact that we had our Athenæum crowded with diggers to hear a lecture on "Religious Shams," by a semi-atheist, when we could scarcely get a score to listen to religion itself. Have we not here alone a spiritual condition which threatens to approximate to that of the Boers of South Africa?

But I would direct your attention more especially to settlers and men living in solitary huts many miles apart, scattered throughout the interminable forests of the Australian bush, hundreds of miles from any settlement. Men living in this state are, in innumerable cases, surrendered to a state of very heathenism, and this condition year by year becoming worse and worse. Viewing the condition so sorrowful of many of our countrymen lapsing into the normal state of the aborigines in the primeval forest, whilst knowledge is increasing in the earth and philanthropy and religion are doing their utmost for the heathen abroad and the heathen at home, we may ask what is being done for the heathenism that is positively springing up among men, who, but a few years ago, were our brothers and companions at home; frequenting, perhaps, the same sanctuary, and receiving with us the same sacred impressions, the last to die in the soul. Mothers and sisters at home are praying for their sons and brothers abroad. Shall their prayers be in vain? But how shall they ever be answered unless there be extended to them the help they need. New South Wales has set us an example, the present condition of things calls upon us to follow up; there having been instituted amongst them what has been well called "The Bush Missionary Society," and nine or ten agents are employed for the express work of visiting those bushmen who may live beyond the immediate reach of the minister and his church.

But whilst this may be the case in Sydney, the oldest established, and a colony in which the religious sentiment is certainly more strong, what is being done for Victoria, South Australia, and Queensland? What religious organisation is there in existence to include, in fact, the whole of the Australias which have been colonised from our country, not including other colonies, whether of Canada or South America, where the British settler is increasing, and, as it would appear unless some especial and sustained effort be made, hopelessly lost to religious influence in the remoteness of those forests into which they have retired? We could hardly be in a position to rouse the churches in those parts to send out missionaries unless our voice come with the emphasis of example, by placing ourselves in a position to help our weaker brethren in this work; a work which is equally ours, for are they not many of them our countrymen, who, as they disappear from us, are, as it would seem, inevitably retiring from the reach of Christian solicitude—lost to sight, and it would seem as though no one thought of them, or cared to find them out. Noble-minded men, many of them adventurous and ambitious, the very flower of many of the small English towns they had left behind, but who leaving their homes when religious conviction is hardly developed, or its principle confirmed, are beginning to throw off its concern with serious thought, and to settle down to the life of the bush. And with the restraints of society, how often are those of religion cast aside! When in Victoria I had frequent opportunity of visiting them and engaging in this kind of work, and my experience is this, you will hardly be able to get them to come to a place of worship. The very Welsh have in many cases given up this; but you may go to them, and, with true Arabian hospitality, they will receive you. In their hut you may read to them, and perhaps gather together some of the neighbourhood. A prayer-meeting may be held, the old Book be again opened, the accents of prayer ascend, religious tracts may be left behind, and may it not be hoped in many cases religious conviction may be again awakened, and the somnolence of religious life in the noonday stillness of those vast solitudes be for a moment startled.

Let agents be appointed for this work, and the plan to be adopted would be this. Taking for his sphere a circuit say of fifty or seventy miles, in the midst of this he might pitch his tent. Besides public services on the Sabbath, which in some places are possible, and, for they are a well-to-do people, will become remunerative, if only the work progress and the people be roused to attend—he should visit during the week from hut to hut, conversing with the people and holding meetings in their houses, he would thus move from place to place, until, at the year's end, he would not leave one homestead unvisited throughout the whole of that vast circuit. With the new year he would take a new district, would pitch his tent yet further in the solitude, and as some nine or ten of the agents should thus, year by year, work

their way over the colony, or over the continent itself, might we not expect that here would be a great work done?

Only I would here take occasion to suggest that the plan upon which we should work should be entirely unsectarian, as in the bush you have every shade of religious belief, and whilst they would not think the less of you for being a Presbyterian or a Methodist, they of another persuasion would perhaps be more open to receive your message if you came altogether in the name of Christ, and make no mention of Calvin or Wesley. Perhaps it would be objected, "This is within the sphere of the Colonial Missionary Society." True, but knowing the truly Christian spirit that prompts them to enterprise, I am certain that here they would say, "We are not sufficient for these things; the claims of the Colonial Churches are already too pressing upon us," and they would be only too willing to leave the matter in the hands of those who should form themselves into a committee with its secretary and treasurer for carrying out this most truly Catholic and Christian work. I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,

HENRY BEVIS, Jun.

Ramsgate, Feb. 15, 1869.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

The semi-official prints speak with positive fury of the bill passed by the Belgian Parliament for the purpose of putting a veto on the projected fusion of the railway from Arlon to Brussels with the French Eastern Company, which would have enabled France to obtain control over a strategic line, the possession of which would have given umbrage to Prussia and have mitigated the failure to get the fortress of Luxembourg. The *Public* speaks of a "series of intrigues" of the Belgian Ministry, stigmatises them as devoid of the "smallest ray of reason," and sternly tells them that the French Government can, "by a stroke of its pen, ruin Belgian commerce in twenty-four hours." The papers all say or insinuate that the bill has been brought forward at the dictation of Prussia, and the *Liberté* remarks:—"He who does not see that the Belgian army will very shortly be the advanced guard of the Prussian army against France must be blind." The Government papers of yesterday express a hope that the Belgian Ministry, in view of the general opinion in France, already clearly expressed on this subject, will not permit the said project to have a retrospective character, but would take into consideration that such a course would prejudice the interests of the commercial community.

The *Gaulois* says M. Rouher's friends suspect that M. de Maupas had a hint from the Emperor before he made his speech in the Senate on Ministerial responsibility, and they are confirmed in this opinion by a series of articles published by M. Clement Duvernois in his newly paper, notoriously set going by funds from the Emperor's private purse. The natural conclusion is (says the correspondent of the *Daily News*) that M. Rouher's position is not secure. It is remarked that M. de Maupas, who for years has been living in comparative obscurity, now gives himself the airs of a great personage, and has large receptions, to which political men are invited, at his hotel in the Rue du Regard.

GERMANY.

In Friday's sitting of the Upper House of the Prussian Legislature, the bills relative to the confiscation of the private property of the King of Hanover and of the Elector of Hesse were agreed by a large majority, in the form in which they passed through the Lower House. During the debate on the first subject, Count Bismarck delivered a speech, in which he said:—

The treaty of September, 1867, which was signed by two kings, and countersigned by the Prussian Minister for Foreign Affairs, was no private contract, but a State treaty, both from the manner in which it arose and the form in which it was drawn up. In the interests of peace we set an example of magnanimity such as had never before been witnessed in the history of Europe.

Had Prussia been defeated, an event which in 1866 all the world, excepting ourselves, considered certain, Silesia would probably not have been the only sacrifice we must have made to save ourselves from destruction, for our opponents projected the dismemberment and annihilation of Prussia. After our victory the duty of self-preservation forced upon us the extinction of the Hanoverian kingdom. To the royal house, which had fallen by its own faults and self-delusion, we desired to secure, with a view to the consolidation of peace, a position worthy of its past history, so that its head might live in England in a manner suitable to his rank as the Duke of Cumberland. At the same time, we did not believe in any theory of the rights to private property of an enemy who had not concluded peace with us. We looked upon the arrangement made as a settlement of all claims, for we gave more than the King of Hanover had possessed. As his Majesty had deceived us when we confided in the fulfilment of the implied conditions and assumptions of the treaty, we are now compelled to preserve the fatherland from any possible danger that might arise from this violation of trust.

On the discussion upon the bill confiscating the property of the Elector of Hesse Cassel, Count Bismarck said—

The Elector of Hesse broke his engagements entered into in the treaty with us by his direct appeal in a published manifesto to the European Powers to take the province of Hesse from Prussia. The Elector of Hesse is concerned in the deplorable agitation carried on by a certain press to disturb the peace of Europe. It is a criminal undertaking to endeavour to incite to war two nations most earnestly desirous of remaining at peace, and to do so, moreover, through the dissemination of falsehood by means of the distribution of money. In the French press, among a people extremely sensitive on points of honour, an opinion has purposely been spread abroad that Germany wishes to employ the strength gained by unity towards a war of attack upon France. In this must be sought the explanation for the collection of false news which has been circulated with shameless inventiveness in both countries, and which, sent everywhere by telegraph, has had a most pernicious effect. Thus public opinion in France and Germany is worked upon as if war were daily imminent between the two countries. It is the interest of both nations that an end should be put as speedily as possible to these lying intrigues by cutting off the means by which they are fostered. The Prussian Government has always actively endeavoured to prevent the circulation of false war rumours. It is fully convinced that all European Governments are animated by peaceful intentions, and it requires that the public both in France and Germany should entertain this belief. Even in the interest of national dignity it is necessary to stop the sources whence newspapers are subsidised openly to incite a brave and warlike nation like the French to make war upon Germany. I have many times been reproached by the press for not preserving a proper diplomatic calm in the face of such endeavours. Those who can restrain their anger at such baseness have national feelings differently organised to mine.

SPAIN.

OPENING OF THE CONSTITUENT CORTES.

The opening of the Constituent Cortes took place on Thursday with great ceremony. An immense crowd assembled, and troops of the garrison and the National Guard lined the approaches to the palace of the Cortes. The balconies of the houses were hung with drapery. The members of the Provisional Government were loudly cheered on their arrival. Marshal Serrano, President of the Provisional Government, opened the session with a speech, in which he said:—

The nations of Europe, on attaining a higher degree of civilisation, threw off the traditional bonds which fettered the public mind. Spain delayed for a long time following their example, but the day has now come, the obstacles to progress are removed, and the representatives of the nation are called upon to construct a new edifice, of which the Provisional Government has prepared the foundations and sketched the outline. This victory has been achieved without bloodshed; but certain disturbances which have taken place, and the extravagance of some former Administrations, have placed the finances in an embarrassed condition. The Government relies on the Cortes to remedy this state of things by economical reforms, thorough changes in the administration, and by legislation relative to the public debt and the expenditure for the army and navy. The Government recommends to the Cortes to be united in the task before them.

It has adopted and proclaimed with ardent faith and enthusiasm the fundamental principles of the most radical Liberalism, namely, liberty of worship, of the press, of public education, of public meeting and association. These reforms the deputies must proceed to consolidate.

The partial disturbance which originated in the impatience of some parties has been repressed, and the Government has acted with energy and patriotism.

Referring to the insurrection in Cuba, Marshal Serrano said:—

The revolution is not responsible for this rising, which is due to the errors of past Governments, and we hope that it will speedily be put down, and that tranquillity, based upon liberal reforms, will then be durable. Slavery will be abolished, but without precipitation, and without compromising the prosperity of the Antilles.

Marshal Serrano concluded by stating that the relations of Spain with all foreign Governments were satisfactory, and with some had become even of a more intimate character than formerly.

The inaugural address was received with great enthusiasm, and, at its conclusion, shouts were raised of "Long live the Nation!" "Long live the National Sovereignty!" "Long live the Provisional Government!" At this point the crowd, which had rushed in and filled the galleries, to the exclusion of the holders of tickets, began to give cheers for the Provisional Government, Prim, &c., and a good deal of confusion arose. The President vainly endeavoured for some time to restore order. Cheers for the Republic were also given, and these were met by counter cheers for the Monarchy. The confusion then became very great. Cries of "Order" and "Silence" arose on all sides, and the President rang his bell and struck the table for several minutes. Ultimately Serrano succeeded in restoring order and good temper by vociferously shouting, "Viva the sovereignty of the people!" The proceedings ended quite quietly.

A march past of the soldiers and volunteers afterwards took place. Subsequently the members of the Provisional Government attended Divine service in the Basilica of the Holy Virgin of Atocha, where a solemn *Te Deum* was celebrated in honour of the opening of the Constituent Cortes.

On Saturday Rivero was elected President of the Cortes by 168 votes against the 50 obtained by the Republican candidate, Orense. The Provisional Government has appointed Senor Eassara Ambassador to this country.

Telegrams have been received from General Dulce, the Captain-General of Cuba, urging the despatch of reinforcements, the insurrection having spread to the neighbourhood of Havannah, and requesting Government to introduce into the Cortes a bill sanctioning the contraction of a loan of 400 millions of reals for Cuba. Further large reinforcements are to be sent to Cuba.

Intelligence from Cuba announces that General Dulce has ordered the renewal of the censorship on the press, and that he has also given directions for the insurgents who are taken prisoners to be tried by court-martial.

The Cortes has since been occupied with the verification of the elections, which is proceeding rapidly, so that it will be possible for the Chamber to be finally constituted by Friday next.

Another demonstration is reported to have taken place at Malaga, when demands were put forward for the establishment of liberty of worship together with the abolition of capital punishment, the latter principle to be applied to those persons condemned to death at Burgos.

TURKEY AND GREECE.

Count Walewski, carrying the adhesion of the Greek Government to the Proctocol of the Conference, has returned to Paris. It is stated to be completely satisfactory.

The Greek Ministry have revoked the measures taken by the late Government for the establishment of a national guard, and for an extraordinary levy of troops. Perfect tranquillity reigns. The troops have received orders to quit the military positions appointed to them during the late crisis, and to return to their former quarters.

The Zaïmis Ministry have issued a programme, in which they set forth their views of the present situation of affairs, and the difficulties with which they have to contend. It is said that when the King first sent for M. Zaïmis, he accepted the task of forming a Ministry, and succeeded; but at half-past nine in the evening he received a letter informing him that the sovereign declined his services. It now transpires that the astute Zaïmis laid down as indispensable conditions that the Chamber of Deputies should be dissolved if it still disavowed adhesion to the Protocol, that the Administration should be carried on free from all Court influence, that a proclamation should be issued to the people, justifying the Ministry in yielding to the Great Powers, and that a memorial should be addressed to the various Courts proving that Greece had received scant justice at the Conference. The King declared that he could not accept these terms, but a Zaïmis Ministry was the only resource, and a general election is to take place.

The despatch of the Marquis de la Valette, the French Minister, to M. Delyannis, the Greek Minister, dated Jan. 20th, has been published. It states that the Powers who signed the Treaty of 1856 regret that Greece did not permit her representative to attend the Conference, but that they, nevertheless, considered it their duty to continue the work of intervention in the interest of peace. They had come to the conclusion that the inquiry should be directed not so much towards past acts as towards the rules of conduct which ought henceforth to regulate the relations of Turkey and Greece.

"In a word," says the despatch, "the Conference is of opinion that the best method for preventing a recurrence of the present difference was to lay down the general principles of international law, about which the two Governments were at variance."

If at the expiration of the delay granted Greece sent no reply, her silence was to be regarded as a refusal, and the consequences would rest with herself. In the event of her adhesion, the Porte would withdraw its ultimatum, and resume diplomatic relations.

The Paris Conference will re-assemble to-day or to-morrow to receive the reply of the Greek Cabinet brought by Count Walewski.

The Candiote refugees at Athens have petitioned the Foreign Ministers for ships to enable them to return to Candia.

AMERICA.

The formal proceeding of counting the electoral votes given for the President and Vice-President of the United States took place on Wednesday at a joint meeting of Congress. General Grant and Mr. Colfax were declared to be duly elected. A little novelty was given to the ordinary routine by a dispute between the two Houses as to whether the vote of Georgia should be counted. The Senate pronounced in favour of admitting the State, the House voted for its exclusion. There was a scene between General Butler and Mr. Wade, but the matter was ultimately compromised by the official return being made out both ways. It is stated that President Johnson has pardoned Dr. Mudd, who was mixed up with the assassination of President Lincoln. The farce of trying Jefferson Davis was concluded on Thursday, when a *nolle prosequi* was entered on the indictment at Richmond.

Washington correspondents of the New York papers state that General Grant has refused to ride, on the occasion of his inauguration as President, in the same carriage with Mr. Andrew Johnson, the retiring President.

A cable telegram of Saturday states that General Grant, in response to the formal notification of his election to the Presidency, declared that he would faithfully discharge the duties of his office, and call around him men who would earnestly carry out the principles of economy, retrenchment, and honesty, adding, however, that he declined to announce the names of the members of his Cabinet until the nominations were sent to the Senate.

The House of Representatives has passed a bill repealing all laws authorising the issue of bonds excepting for railway subsidies, or for the conversion of coupons into registered bonds. The House has also passed bills prohibiting secret sales of bonds or gold by the Government, and prohibiting the acceptance of national currency by banks, corporations, or persons as collateral security for loans.

The *New York Times* of the 1st inst. says that certain overtures are reported to have been made to the United States Government by the authorities of Hayti and San Domingo, which, if successfully carried out, will result in the annexation of those islands to the United States.

The President of the United States has accepted the office of arbitrator on the African boundary dispute between Great Britain and Portugal.

The *Times* correspondent telegraphs that the steamer Nellie Stevens was burnt on Thursday night

on the Red River, Arkansas; sixty-three lives were lost and forty-three persons were saved.

A telegram from Ottawa says that Whelan, the murderer of Mr. D'Arcy M'Gee, and who was respited pending the decision of a technical point in his favour, was executed on Thursday. There was no disturbance.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The King of Italy and the members of his Cabinet have returned from Naples to Florence.

Seditious proclamations in favour of an Iberian Republic continue to be circulated in Portugal.

The Arabs in arms against the French Government have been defeated, with great loss, by a portion of a friendly tribe.

Rain has generally fallen in the Punjaub, and much of the crops under cultivation has thereby been saved.

The Prince Imperial is a great amateur of velocipedes. He publicly gained a race on Friday in the Tuileries gardens against his comrade, Dr. Conneau's son, and it is said that he has ordered a dozen velocipedes to make presents of to various young friends.

In Lyons a priest has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for cruelty to the pupils placed under his charge. He was accustomed, it appeared, to hang them up by the legs to a hook and then flog them. The accused was only twenty-two years of age.

Turkey and Persia.—The Paris papers publish intelligence from Constantinople, Feb. 11th, according to which the Shah of Persia is said to be preparing to proceed in person with the army to the South in the direction of Bagdad. The Porte is sending reinforcements to the Persian frontier.

Another Collision between the British and Chinese. — A collision has taken place near Swatow, between the inhabitants of some villages and the crew of her Majesty's gunboat Cockchafer. The British were compelled to retreat, having had eleven of their number wounded. The officers escaped unhurt. A naval force of 400 men has been sent to Swatow.

Ocean Steamer Racing.—The *New York Tribune*, alluding to the terrible disaster which recently befel the Atlantic steamer Pereire, says it had been announced that a race between that vessel and the Hamburg steamer Holsatia, from Havre to New York, was decided on, and that some curiosity is accordingly felt to know whether the storm was the only cause of the accident.

Fish Culture.—"Italy," says the *Constitutionnel*, "possesses in the lagoons of Comachio, near Ferrara, such a nursery of eels as might well be coveted in France. Upwards of 400 workmen, regularly disciplined as if they were on board ship, are employed in the breeding of the fish, the sale of which forms an important branch of the commerce of the country. In 1865, the quantity sold weighed about 370 tons French (2,204lbs. each), and brought 381,525*f.* (15,200*l.*).

Fuad Pasha, the Ottoman Minister of Foreign Affairs, died at Nice last Thursday evening. He had been ailing for several months, and had gone for the winter to Nice, in the hope of recovering his health there. The *Journal Officiel* of the French Empire says that his death will leave a great void in Turkey. A telegram from Constantinople says that since his departure from that city he had ceased to exercise any active influence over Turkish politics. No successor is to be appointed until after the funeral.

Mr. Goldwin Smith and the Students.—At the Cornell University, at which Mr. Goldwin Smith is acting as professor, nearly all the pupils are sons of farmers, and the study of the classics is blended with manual labour. Mr. Smith is, it is said, charmed with what is to him a novel experiment. One instance of the gracefulness which almost uniformly characterises the middle class of American students is worth recording. When Mr. Smith arose to deliver his first lecture, the students all stood up, and remained standing the whole time the professor was speaking. This was their tribute to the master.

Improved Condition of Jamaica.—The following extract from a letter written by an agent of the London Missionary Society, dated Jamaica, January 16th, 1869, is published by the *Leeds Mercury*:—"The past has been a year of great mercy to us, and very considerable encouragement. All my stations are improved in every respect, and I would earnestly hope we are entering on a new and better era in the history of our island. I think the country is beginning to revive in all its interests, and we are perfectly free from all political strife and agitation, so rife and so baneful in past years. The Church question is almost the only one that is engaging public attention, and that is being agitated only by petitions, for and against, to the Legislative Council. But I imagine the course of events in England will affect the question more influentially than anything we can do here."

The Pekin Senior Wranglership.—Pekin has been more lively than usual on account of the triennial literary examinations which have just come to a conclusion. More than two hundred out of several thousand candidates have gained the title "doctor," and their names will be inscribed on a monument to be erected in the Confucian temple in Peking. After the "pass examination" there is an examination for "honours." Those who pass high in the list all obtain what is equivalent to "Fellowships" in the Imperial Academy, the celebrated Han-lin, Forest of Pencils. The first in the list is called the Chwang-yuen. The fortunate scholar who has just acquired this distinction is Hung-kiun, a native of Kiang-su province. A few weeks ago he was a schoolmaster in a southern family resident in the Chinese city of Pekin. His fortune is now made. He has a fat fellowship in the Han-lin, a good rank, has been invited to an imperial feast presided over by the President of the Board of Ceremonies, has gone to Court to give thanks to the Emperor, and has had his name rapidly transmitted to all the eighteen provinces as the first scholar in the empire at the triennial examination.—*English Independent*.

The Earthquake in Bengal.—The Indian papers publish details of the earthquake in Bengal of which we were informed some time since by telegraph. The shocks were felt in various parts between the 10th and 14th of January. They were most severe in Cachar and Assam, and did considerable damage to buildings in Shillong, Nowgong, Tezpore, Seebsangor, and Silchar. The barracks at Chinsurah also were thrown down. In Silchar the surface of the earth is said to have undulated, bringing down houses and trees, and opening out in cracks through which water ejected. Among a denser population, or in a closely built city, the destruction of life and property would probably have been great, but the tea districts are very sparsely inhabited, and no great loss of life is reported. The earthquake was felt as far west of Calcutta as Dinapore, but the capital itself seems only to have experienced the outer wave of the convulsion. Cachar, where it was most severe, is on the line of volcanic action which, stretching from the Eastern Himalayas, runs down the coast of Burmah, where there are several extinct volcanoes, to the Eastern Archipelago, where volcanic phenomena on a large scale are of frequent occurrence.

The War in Paraguay.—A private letter received in Liverpool says:—"On the 2nd January, the Brazilian expedition went up to Assuncion, and found there Lopez's will, naming Madame Linch his heiress, and MacMahon, the American Minister, his executor. Lopez had resolved to die at Angostura, and has given his Adjutant a revolver to shoot him with, but in the end his courage fell, and he fled. By this fact it is judged that he has no resources. On the 2nd January, three Brazilian regiments entered Assuncion. The city was entirely abandoned. In Cerro Leon there were no Paraguayan troops. Lopez, with thirty men, among them Senor Resquain, had fled. The whole allied army, except some Argentines, marched on the 3rd for Assuncion. The surrender of the troops at Angostura took place with the usual formalities. The number exceeded 1,300 men, the pick of the Paraguayan army, besides 500 sick and wounded, and 400 women. In Angostura 44 guns were found, 18 of them being 64-pounders, and one magnificent gun cast in Paraguay. The quantity of arms and munitions of war taken is enormous. An expedition of cavalry was sent, commanded by Albares, in pursuit of Lopez and his thirty followers. An English surgeon, Mr. Stewart, in attendance on Lopez, reports that the population of Paraguay before the war he estimated at 500,000, and to-day not over 80,000 to 100,000. From the Bishop to the brothers and sisters of Lopez, all dead, shot, or otherwise martyred. Lopez's adjutants declare that MacMahon left for the interior (Sierras) with the children of Lopez.

Peace Meeting in Paris.—A meeting was held on Wednesday evening in the music-hall known as the "Salle Herz," Rue de la Victoire. It was convoked by a certain number of the friends of peace, among whom M. Frederick Passy is the most zealous, active, and persevering. M. Passy is the founder of the association, or "Peace League," whose object is to propagate philanthropic ideas and to create a strong public feeling against war. Some 300 or 400 persons of the better class, including a number of ladies, were present, and one or two non-commissioned officers of artillery. A commissary of police attended. The chair was taken at half-past eight o'clock by M. Edouard Laboulaye, member of the Institute, supported by MM. Joseph Garnier, Professor of Political Economy at the School of the Ponts et Chaussées, Benard and Passy, members of the Society of Political Economy. M. Laboulaye, who, besides being member of the Institute, is Professor of Comparative Legislation at the Collége de France, is one of those speakers one never tires of hearing. His style is clear, simple, and elegant, and his wit enlivens the driest subject. On opening the proceedings he declared his opinion that people were at last beginning to be convinced of the utter uselessness, to say nothing of the barbarity, of war. War had passed through various stages; its infancy was when Cain killed his brother Abel; its youth was spent under the great monarchies that preceded the Roman Empire; it arrived at manhood under the Romans, whom it was so much the fashion to admire; but in our times it has reached its old age, and is fast advancing to decrepitude. No doubt, efforts are made to render it interesting by the inventions of modern science—rifled cannon, Chassepots, projectiles of a new and startling composition, torpedoes, &c.; but these were like the desperate efforts made by the superannuated coquette to hide the ravages which time made in her features, and which deceived nobody. The very fact that whole bodies of men could now be swept away without coming into close contact showed that wars must soon cease for ever. After an effective address, which the wit and humour of the speaker did not render less effective, and which was repeatedly applauded, M. Laboulaye gave way to M. Frederick Passy, the organiser of the Peace League. M. Passy spoke for more than an hour on the same subject. He described in forcible language the horrible scenes presented by a field of battle, and quoted various passages from ancient and modern history showing the incredible amount of slaughter that ensued very often from quarrels of the most contemptible kind. In fact, he said all that one who is proud of being regarded as an enthusiast of philanthropy might be expected to say on the horrors of war and the blessings of peace; and he was warmly responded to by his audience, including even the artillerymen. The impression produced was excellent.

HER MAJESTY'S MINISTERS AT FISHMONGERS' HALL.

On Thursday evening a sumptuous entertainment was given to her Majesty's Ministers by the Prime Warden and Court of Assistants of the Fishmongers' Company in their noble hall at London Bridge. Prior to the dinner, Mr. Gladstone was received in the court room, where he was duly presented with the freedom of the company. The certificate was enclosed in a casket of gold.

Mr. George Moore, the Prime Warden, presided at the dinner, to which nearly two hundred persons sat down, including nearly all the members of the Cabinet, and a large number of Liberal members. After the usual loyal toast, "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," were proposed, and Mr. Cardwell and Mr. Whitwell respectively responded.

In proposing "The Health of her Majesty's Ministers," which was received with prolonged cheering, the Chairman said—

Those who have watched the progress of political events during the last thirty years cannot fail to have been struck by two remarkable characteristics in him who to-night is our honoured guest. I mean the honest openness of his mind to conviction, and his tenderness of conscience. He has manfully fought for the truth, and believing honest conviction to be one of the noblest of virtues, he has become the trusted leader of the Liberal party. (Loud cheers.) The right hon. gentleman has raised himself by his own abilities to the highest post which a commoner can attain, and attaining that position, he has displayed abilities second to none—eloquence almost unrivalled, a genius great and varied, capacity for public business not inferior to that of his former great chief, Sir Robert Peel. (Loud cheers.) By the free and unmistakable choice of the people of this country he has been entrusted with the good old cause of civil and religious liberty, and he has the aid of men well worthy to embark with him in such a career. (Cheers.) We humbly trust that it will be his high privilege to guide the Parliament of this country to win the affections and the love of Ireland by a new policy of complete and equal justice. (Cheers.) As the constituencies have so emphatically spoken out, we must conclude that the right hon. gentleman's measures will be carried; this task is large enough, but there are others which time prevents my even alluding to. In the noble path now lying before him we trust that he may ever be supported and protected by an Almighty hand, and that on his upward journey he may reap the blessed fruits of peace, retrenchment, and reform. (Cheers.)

Mr. Moore then presented Mr. Gladstone with the insignia of the freedom of the company, and the right hand of fellowship.

Mr. Gladstone, in acknowledging the toast, said:—

You will allow me, in the first place, to express my personal gratitude for the honour I have received this day in being admitted a member of the ancient guild of Fishmongers—an honour of which the beautiful emblem you have presented to me is, I will venture to say, even the smallest part, because I know that in that choice you make of the persons that you determine to add to your roll you look to nothing so much as to the opportunity of rendering some new tribute to the value and sacredness of the cause to which this company has been so long devoted. Therefore, in accepting this honour at your hands I feel I give a new pledge, if one be necessary, not to be wanting in any effort for the purpose of giving effect to the principles which we profess in common, and I trust it may never happen amidst the vicissitudes of political life that I may be called upon to do any act which may in the slightest degree impair my loyalty to the guild of Fishmongers. (Laughter.) Passing to the toast which you have been so good as to propose to the company, and which the company has been good enough to receive in the most gratifying manner to every one of my colleagues, I would presume to say, as well as myself, I would remark there is something more in it at the present moment than an idle and unmeaning compliment. (Cheers.) It is the first time upon which we have presented ourselves in public to any great body of our countrymen, and nothing could be more agreeable to us than that the first occasion should be associated with the remembrance and with the hospitality of the guild of Fishmongers. And being the first time, it calls to mind the circumstances under which we have acceded to office, and undoubtedly they are no common ones. It is sometimes said and thought—perhaps lightly, though occasionally with a degree of truth—that the changes of parties are but changes of men, and that with the transition from one side to the other, pledges, opinions, and principles are compromised or forgotten. It can hardly be feared that on this occasion such is likely to be the case. (Cheers.) I look to the characters, experience, and abilities of the friends with whom I have the honour to be associated; and I believe that such an appeal, if it were made, would be effectual. But the nation has other guarantees for our fulfilment, to the best of our abilities, of the purpose for which we have been called. Never in our history—certainly not within the history of living man, has there been an occasion upon which the issue raised at a general election was more intelligibly and distinctly raised than when the late House of Commons, condemned by the Government of the day, was summoned to the bar of popular opinion, there to receive its final acquittal or condemnation. Every man who had to give his suffrage throughout the country knew for or against what that suffrage was to be given; and if the issue was distinct, the verdict also has been distinct—for upon no occasion has the nation made its meaning more clearly known, or laid down, alike for those who are the objects of its preference and for those whose opinions it was disposed to put aside—laid down with greater clearness the lines of public policy and of action. (Cheers.) We may be, perhaps, tempted upon

such an occasion—but we ought to resist the temptation—to use the language of exultation. The task to which we have to address ourselves is an arduous task. I am not about to anticipate that sketch or outline of the policy and measures of the session which almost within a few days will be communicated to Parliament and the world. But without dealing in secrets, those who have taken part in the struggles of the last autumn, and especially those who have watched the determining issues of the late session in Parliament, may well judge that we should take upon ourselves the heavy responsibility of raising and submitting to the judgment of the legislature such a question as the continuance of the religious establishment of one of the three countries—may well judge that we, having been permitted thus far to make good our ground—to make it good, in the first instance, by repeated divisions in a House of Commons not unduly disposed to innovate—to make it good, above all, in that which our opponents were careful to tell us, and not unjustly, was the final appeal—I say there can be no doubt that we, having proceeded thus far, and having set our hand to the plough, are not now to look back, but with faces steadily set onward to persevere with prudence and consideration, and without hesitation and without delay, to the great end we have in view. (Cheers.) We are encouraged in this task in the first place by the constitutional knowledge and character of that Sovereign whom we have the honour to serve, and whose delight it is to associate herself both with the interests and convictions of her people. (Hear, hear.) I may presume to say that I am also encouraged by the character and abilities of the men who have not shrunk from sharing with myself the responsibility of a Government that has now been fairly presented to the country, and which, I think, has met the public eye without attracting the public disapproval. (Cheers.) We are strong, also, in that emphatic testimony which the public judgment—tested by the ordeal of the elections—has pronounced in favour of the policy to which we are pledged; and, above all this—we are sustained and comforted by that upon which, in the last resort, every man and especially every public man, ought to fall back, namely, the deep conviction that the cause to which he is devoted is the cause of justice and of the public weal. (Cheers.) If there be curiosity as to the course which the Government will endeavour to pursue upon and shortly after the opening of the session, I am afraid I must not attempt, at this moment, to gratify that most natural and intelligible sentiment. But I do venture to give a pledge that not a moment will be lost in the maturing of those measures which, when produced and explained, will, I believe, afford to all full gratification. (Cheers.) As I have said the great majority which has been returned to Parliament for the support of the principles of the Liberal party constitutes, indeed, a remarkable—almost an unparalleled—success, and yet it is an event not without its dangers, for its dangers would outweigh its advantages, great as they may be, if they were to lead, on the part of any one among us, either to slackness of mind or to a disposition to undervalue the grave and serious nature of the obstacles we have to overcome. (Cheers.) I believe that the provisions of our constitution, which secure a deliberate and impartial expression of the national conviction, are sufficient for the settlement of this or of any controversy; but, as in the conduct of military campaigns there is no superiority of force that will counterbalance possible errors of generalship or lack of discipline, so we may throw away even these great advantages should we fail to turn them to the best account. (Hear, hear.) Great is the responsibility that lies upon us in this respect, for if we fail, we shall be exposed to the just reproaches of a disappointed, and even an indignant people. (Cheers.) But if it shall be our happy lot to avoid the dangers besetting us on the right hand and on the left, then I will venture to say that never were public men more happy in the nature of the task they have been called upon to take in hand; for what can be an object dearer either to the understanding or the heart of man than to endeavour to bring about through the whole of this vast community that union of feeling and interest which, even in the degree in which we have hitherto possessed it, has been the source of our strength and glory, but which still presents to view here and there some points in which it is unhappily defective, and which we wish to bring up to that condition in which every man will almost forget whether he is a Scotchman, Englishman, or Irishman, in the sense and consciousness of his belonging to a common country. (Loud cheers.) For centuries we have been associated together in political bonds, for centuries our policy, so successful in most respects, has failed to attain the great and paramount purpose of carrying that sense of brotherhood throughout the three kingdoms as associated under the rule of her Majesty. We are now called upon to make a great and supreme effort for that purpose. In a day it cannot be done. By a single measure it cannot be done, nor, it may be, by many measures; the whole result cannot be produced as an immediate consequence of acts of legislation. But we have to deal with a people certainly not less susceptible than ourselves, not less capable of gratitude, attachment, and affection, not less inspired with the true and genuine love of justice; and, for my part, I have faith in the policy which is founded upon justice, and I believe it will produce its fruits in generating the sentiments of affection among mankind. (Loud cheers.) These are, vaguely sketched, the opinions with which I have, and I think all the colleagues with which I am associated, desired to approach the consideration of that great question—the Irish question—which is uppermost and foremost in every man's mind at this peculiar juncture. To it we attach so much weight, that we well know there is nothing we can do in any other department of the public interest or public affairs which can possibly compensate for failure with regard to the Irish question. (Cheers.) But I need not ask you, nor allow you for one moment to suppose that because we are in heart and mind determined to make this our first and paramount object, we shall therefore be forgetful of the other great interests in this country. (Hear, hear.) In truth there is but one consideration that tends, I think, to depress and sadden the mind of public men, and that is the consideration how the demands of those interests in this vast and diversified empire multiply far beyond the powers of human time, intelligence, and strength to meet them. We shall have great reason to depend upon your kindness and indulgence, but in every department of the State it has been endeavoured so to distribute the strength that we may possess as to secure an efficient discharge of public duty; and I think and believe you will find there is no one of these departments which has not in its leading post a man thoroughly devoted to the public interest and earnest to bestow unsparing labour in the pursuit of the public welfare. (Hear, hear.) I will only add to this expression the remark that I must again thank you for the kindness with which we have been received here this evening, and assure you that the comfort and strength which we derive from contact with our countrymen in the common atmosphere which we breathe upon an occasion such as this is among the main satisfactions of our daily public life, and greatly assists and cheers us in the pursuit of the objects to which that life is devoted. (Loud cheers.

Earl GRANVILLE, in responding for "The House of Lords," said:—

I am bound to admit that if there be anything weakly in the constitution of the House of Lords, it is not owing to the want of its health being drunk. (Cheers and laughter.) Only the other evening, in a neighbouring county, the toast was enthusiastically proposed, and was responded to by one of the representatives of literature in that assembly. I am also assured that not a hundred miles from London Bridge that toast was most genially proposed by the hospitable chairman of the most liberal society in the city, and responded to with great ability by a most rev. prelate, one of the ablest representatives of the Church in the House of Lords. Now, with regard to all these speeches, however differently they may be expressed, there is always the substratum—we Englishmen think that the representative form of government is the best; we believe that the best form of representative government is to have two Assemblies, and not one, and we pride ourselves that other nations have not been able to surpass or equal that which has grown up or been created by time and circumstances in this country. This argument is so complete that it makes quite a bed of roses for us Sybarites in the Upper Chamber to repose on; and it is sad to think that some of these roseleaves at different times are crumbled by censures of what is done. The noble earl referred to the various projects which had been put forward to facilitate the despatch of buisness in the House of Lords, and expressed a hope that progress would be made this session with the bankruptcy and other measures of that description. He also expressed a belief that the House of Lords would be enabled to approach the larger question of justice to Ireland in such a manner as would enable the majority of the nation to say, though under a different inspiration, "Thank God we have a house of Lords."

The PRIME WARDEN next proposed, "The Health of the Judges," coupling with it the name of the Lord High Chancellor, who returned thanks.

Mr. LOWE, in responding on behalf of "The House of Commons," said, in the course of his remarks—

The House of Commons comes in pledged, as the Government is pledged, to rigid economy in the public expenditure. Now, here we get rather into difficulties, for although I have remarked that no man ever objected to economy in the abstract, still it is only in the abstract or general that he does not object to it; and for a very special reason, because no man ever saw abstract economy practised in the world. As soon as it ceases to be an abstraction, and descends into the region of the concrete, it becomes one of the most distasteful things in the world. If it is economy in public stores—shall I say pens, for instance—it is meanness and cheeseparing, unworthy of a great nation. Every man makes his own pen when it won't write well, but it is considered intolerable that Government clerks should mend their pens. (Much laughter and cheers.) If it is the economy of public buildings, where millions are to be lavished, where millions were lavished before with very doubtful results, we are told that "A thing of beauty is a joy for ever," and that is a perfect satisfaction for the millions that are thrown away. And if it be that most painful of all economy, the economy of reducing the staff of an office over-manned, the sympathies of the public, and I fear of the House of Commons, go with the small minority and not with the public interest. Now, I hope better things of the new House of Commons. I hope when any question is brought forward between the public and small classes of individuals, the House of Commons will range itself on the side of the public and not of individual interests. (Cheers.) I hope, moreover, that we shall no longer have that strange inversion of conscience which we have sometimes seen. The theory is that the House of Commons is the guardian of the public purse, and that the persons to be dreaded as likely to invade that purse are the Ministers of the Crown—that the House of Commons represents the economy of the public, and that the Ministers represent the desire of profligate expenditure. The fact is exactly the contrary. The House of Commons, instead of being the guardian of the public purse, is the source of all increased expenditure, and the departments which the House of Commons ought to check are saddled with the responsibility of expenditure which they are most unceasing in their exertions to retrench. I hope these things will be altered, and that the House of Commons will strenuously set itself to reduce expenditure and to prevent its increase. I trust the House of Commons will be equal to the occasion, that it will manfully and unflinchingly discharge its duties, and that if we are true to our obligations the House of Commons will be true to us, and the people will be true to them. (Loud applause.)

The Right Hon. JOHN BRIGHT, who was enthusiastically cheered, responded to the toast, "The Trade and Commerce of the United Kingdom." In doing so he said that if he had forsaken the paths of trade he had not made a trade of politics. The Board of Trade was much more a department of counsel than a department of action. It gave any quantity of good advice to the other departments of the Government, but he charged upon his colleagues that a great deal of that advice was wholly disregarded.

If I had here all the Prime Ministers that I have known—I will not go so far back as my own Parliamentary experience, but I will say the Prime Ministers of the last fifteen years—if I had all the Chancellors of the Exchequer during that time, and, still more, if I had before me the Ministers who presided over the departments of the army and navy, I should bitterly complain of them that they have been guilty of the most extraordinary and indefensible waste and extravagance of the public resources. (Cheers.) Twenty millions, I believe, somehow or other, have been added to our expenditure and to our taxes during the fifteen years to which I have referred. Now, this result has happened: besides that the money has been received in taxes, your policy of free trade stops short at the abolition of protective duties, and an equal amount—more than twenty millions a year—is received still in import duties to prevent the increase and extension of our foreign trade, the employment of our people, and the gradual but steady increase of their wages. The other day I saw from the papers that at Glasgow an address was presented to the Minister of the United States, and in it many good things were said and one piece of good advice was given. A hope was expressed that the principles of free trade would take root, spring up, and extend in the United States. Well, we all say that; but then we have no right to lecture other people, as far as we are concerned in this matter. We have no protective duties; but if we were Americans discussing the conduct of England, we should not say that England had established free trade because protective duties were abolished. We have still more than 20,000,000*l.* per annum levied on articles of first necessity. I would not say that wine is an article of first necessity, though some men think it is; but, at any rate, we may say that sugar, tea, and coffee, have become articles almost of the first necessity in the country, and on them we levy a duty of almost fifty per cent., while an American who came from Virginia might say we levy on an article produced by that State—I won't say that it is a very wholesome one—a duty of 300 per cent. (Cheers and laughter.) I can only say that, if I am not silenced by entering into the Cabinet, I shall take repeated opportunities of bringing my colleagues before the bar of public opinion in relation to these matters.

Mr. Bright then referred to the recent meeting in that hall when the bishops were entertained.

For my part I almost envy the right rev. gentlemen that they could be so hilarious on that occasion. What an extraordinary amount of imagination a man must have who could say that the life Peers, the ecclesiastical Peers, were really the only Liberal elements in the House of Lords. (Cheers and laughter.) It may be true; but I very much pity all the rest of the House if it be true. (Cheers and laughter.) There was an old Syrian monk I read of many years ago, Ephraim Cyrus, and when they wanted to make him a bishop, he was terrified at the idea of undertaking such a laborious and perilous office, and he feigned madness and absconded that he might avoid it. When my right hon. friend at the head of the Government asked me to become one of his colleagues, I did not for a moment think of feigning madness, but I was on the point of absconding on an express train on the North-Western Railway. (Cheers and laughter.) But if Ephraim Cyrus had lived in our day, I doubt whether he would have feigned madness, o had absconded if he had been asked to become a bishop (Cheers and laughter.) Now, if I had been a bishop—(laughter)—hon. friends around me laugh, as if such a thing were absolutely impossible, but, judging from the men some of whom we have now as bishops, I don't think anything needs to be wondered at. (Much laughter.) I say then, if I had been a bishop, with an income of from 5,000*l.* to 15,000*l.* a year, it is very likely I might have been as full o humour as those right rev. gentlemen; I might have been as merry as any of them, because I certainly should have an inexhaustible source of rejoicing and merriment in the generosity if not the credulity of my countrymen. Mr. Prime Warden and gentlemen, I ask you for forgiveness for the fragmentary kind of speech I have delivered on this occasion; but to speak as a Cabinet Minister is a thing so strange to me, and as unlikely not long ago as that I should speak to you as a bishop, that I hope to be pardoned for anything I have said or left unsaid, or that might have been done better, and I will conclude by thanking you most heartily for the kindness with which you have received me in the new and strange position in which I have been placed.

THE HULL CONVENT CASE.

The celebrated case of Saurin *v.* Star and Kennedy was resumed on Wednesday in the Court of Queen's Bench before Lord Chief Justice Cockburn and a special jury. Mrs. Star, the Lady Superior, who wore the dress of the Order of Mercy, was put under examination. The witness referred to the rules and the customs of the convent which the plaintiff had bound herself to obey, and charged her with many breaches of the discipline of the institution. Amongst these were the following:—Breaking the rules of silence, familiarity with seculars, irregularity in the performance of her duties, want of punctuality, disobedience of orders, unkindness to the school-children, want of truth and sincerity, endeavouring to deceive, secreting articles in her cell, eating between meals, gathering forbidden fruit, and so forth. Mrs. Star's examination was resumed on Thursday. She spoke of clothing which the plaintiff wore being unaccountably torn. In March, 1865, she found plaintiff with rag or paper around her thimble finger, and she said that she wore it because the thimble was too large. She gave her a bagful of brass thimbles to select one from, but did not give her a brass thimble in order to hurt her. When she (defendant) found grease trodden about the floors, and in plaintiff's room and other parts of the house, pieces of tallow, she questioned her about the matter, and the plaintiff replied that she had chilblains. To this she (defendant) answered that she should not have taken the tallow, but have applied to her, and she would have given her a remedy. The defendant spoke of the bitter feelings manifested by the plaintiff; and when plaintiff said that she could get into another convent, she told her to go, and that they would all be glad.

On Thursday and Friday the defendant was still under examination. Questioned as to Miss Saurin's diet subsequently to the holding of the commission, Mrs. Star said that up to Lent she received the same diet as the rest of the community. After that she was treated more generously than they were. There was a garden attached to the convent where the plaintiff might have taken exercise daily, but she

elected not to do so. It was not true that Miss Saurin was kept confined to her room. The directions witness gave were that her movements were not to be controlled in any way. She did order, however, that she was never to be left alone. It was not true that Miss Saurin was fastened in her room at night. There were two chairs in the room, and no orders were given that she was not to use them. With respect to Miss Saurin having been required to do menial work, she met with no exceptional treatment in that respect. It was not true that she had directed that Miss Saurin should be kept standing whilst she was teaching in the schools. Witness had been appointed superior by the bishop in the first instance and for a period of six years, and then she was elected twice by the sisters by ballot for periods of three years. It was true that upon one occasion Miss Saurin was required to wear her duster about her head as a penance, because she persistently neglected to dust the room left in her charge. The duster had been used, but it could not be called dirty. She continued to wear it long after she was permitted to take it off. She ultimately removed it of her own accord. Penances of that kind were quite usual in the community. For example, a sister might be told to wear a towel upon her head if she allowed clothes to go to the wash unmarked. It was customary for sisters to ask to have penances imposed upon them. Miss Saurin herself had so requested. Witness had herself kissed the floor when she came late to services, and so had Mrs. Kennedy. She had kept back from five to seven letters from Miss Saurin. That was in strict accordance with the rules of the order, and Miss Saurin's treatment was not exceptional. Upon one occasion six or seven lines of a letter received by Miss Saurin from her father were obliterated because the passage contained aspersions upon the community. On one occasion she had kept back a letter from a sister because the tone was too complimentary. The cross-examination was then entered upon by the Solicitor-General, and was brought to a close on Saturday. Among other things, Mrs. Star said that when she wrote to the bishop to complain of the unaccountable accumulation of materials of various descriptions found in Miss Saurin's possession, she was merely referring to the bobbins, bits of thread, calico, and silk that have been already spoken of. Her complaint as to the forwardness of Miss Saurin had reference solely to that lady's breach of the rule which enjoins gravity of deportment in the religious. The "grave scandals" involved in the case were the alleged pilferings of Miss Saurin.

Mrs. Kennedy, the co-defendant, was afterwards examined in confirmation of Mrs Star. She said that Miss Saurin was proved to be a most inefficient teacher of the children entrusted to her care, and repeated the story about her taking the children's dinners. Referring to the alleged stripping of Miss Saurin at the end of May, 1865, she said that what was done upon that occasion was done upon her recommendation. The door was bolted, and the mother superior directed Miss Saurin to take off some of her clothing. What she actually took off witness could not say, as she only glanced at her once. She saw the contents of Miss Saurin's pockets, and she heard Mrs. Star read the notes in her tablets out loud. The object of this investigation was to ascertain what pockets Miss Saurin had, and to see whether she had any of the children's food about her. It took place in the evening, after her return from the schools. After stating that Miss Saurin was not worse treated in the matter of food and clothing than the other sisters, Mrs. Kennedy admitted writing to the bishop in August, 1865, with Mrs. Star's knowledge, asking that Miss Saurin might be removed from the convent, in order that Mrs. Star should not be "dragged down to the grave." In her letter she suggested that Miss Saurin could be received as "a boarder" in one of the Irish convents of the order for an annual stipend of 30*l.*, if her family were unwilling to receive her. She added that the Bagot-street sisters would surrender the 300*l.* received with her in order to facilitate such an arrangement. As a "boarder" Miss Saurin would not be a member of the chapter, but an arrangement of the kind was by no means uncommon in their convents. Asked as to her depositions used at the inquiry before the commission, she said all the statements there recorded were quite true, but of course she was now aware that much of the matter was not legal evidence. Mrs. Star had never asked her as to what had passed between her and her confessor, nor had she, to witness's knowledge, ever so inquired of any of the other sisters.

At the close of Mrs. Kennedy's examination on Monday afternoon, Mrs. M'Owen, whose name "in religion" is Sister Mary Agnes, was called and gave evidence in support of the defendants, and her examination was resumed yesterday. She described Miss Saurin as being utterly unfit in point of literary attainments for the work of teaching. She could read the alphabet and words of one syllable, but nothing beyond that. In June, 1863, the witness told Mrs. Star that she would rather beg her bread from door to door than remain any longer superior over Miss Saurin. She certainly would have returned to Dublin rather than remain over her. After Miss Saurin left the convent at Clifford the community there was perfectly happy. The Chief Justice: What was the conduct of Mrs. Star generally towards the sisters? Witness: Exceedingly kind. The Chief Justice: Was there ever any difficulty as to any other member of the community? Witness: As far as my knowledge goes, Miss Saurin's was the only instance. Mrs. King, another sister, was afterwards called for the defence, and the Court again adjourned. Yesterday was the twelfth day of the trial, which is not likely to close this week.

BROAD-STREET CHAPEL, READING.

(From the *Reading Mercury* of February 13.)

The Chancery suit in connection with this chapel to settle the right of a Dissenting congregation to dismiss the minister, was advanced another stage last week. Up to the present time the question at issue has not been brought under the consideration of the Court—all that has been written and said on the subject has been rather of a collateral than of a direct nature. The first public step, after filing the bill, was an application to the Court for an injunction to restrain Mr. Gordon from officiating till the subject could be decided on its merits; but this application the Court refused, on the ground that the trustees of the chapel were all powerful, and could shut Mr. Gordon out if they so thought fit, and that the Court never exercised its power when the parties applying had the power themselves. On this the chapel was closed by the trustees against Mr. Gordon for several weeks, during which time he and his friends met at the Assembly Rooms, where they still worship. Mr. Gordon never attempted to use force to obtain possession of the chapel, the Vice-Chancellor having stated that if he did so, then he (the Vice-Chancellor) could grant an injunction. Matters have in the meantime taken the usual course of Chancery proceedings. Affidavits and answers have been filed in the usual manner, and recently Mr. Gordon, through his solicitor, gave notice that he wished to cross-examine the witnesses for the bill on their affidavits. The cross-examination was commenced on Monday, February 1st. Several witnesses were re-examined, and the answers to the questions were taken down at length by the Examiner, and after being read over, were signed by the witnesses. Mr. Gordon was represented by Mr. Griffits, of the common law bar, Mr. Lovell, and Mr. Henderson (solicitor); while the trustees had their junior counsel, Mr. N. Higgins, of the Chancery bar, and Mr. Norke (of the firm of Parker, Norke, and Parker, solicitors, London). The first witness examined was the Rev. W. Bevan, Secretary to the Evangelical Alliance, and formerly minister at Bar. It would be useless to give even an outline of the examination, as it was restricted to one portion of the affidavit, which was not even read aloud, so that little could be gained if we gave it in *extenso*. After Mr. Bevan, the Rev. James Rowland, of Henley, Dr. Halley, of New College, and Mr. Rorke were examined; but nothing of interest arose. After a slight adjournment, the Rev. H. Allon was sworn as a witness on behalf of Mr. Gordon. Mr. A. had declined to make an affidavit in the matter, and it was only on receiving a subpœna, compelling his attendance, that he appeared there at all. Mr. Allon's evidence was thus taken in chief, and went to prove that in his experience, the ministerial appointment was like the judges', during good behaviour, which called forth the remark of Mr. Higgins that then the two Houses of Parliament could not remove them. Mr. Allon was also examined as to the nature and constitution of church-meetings, &c., and the relation of branch churches to the mother church, and a variety of other matters which have arisen in this suit. On cross-examination by Mr. Higgins, Mr. Allon modified many of his statements and explained many others, especially that portion which related to a resolution of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, which was carried by a committee of which he was a member, and in which it is most distinctly laid down that the churches have the power to elect and dismiss their ministers. At the conclusion of Mr. Allon's evidence, the Court rose, and stands adjourned till March 13. The Revs. T. Binney, Dr. Raleigh, and W. Legg were in attendance to give evidence, but for lack of time were not called. The result of the examination thus far is to leave the matter in *statu quo*. Just as the Court rose, Mr. Higgins, the counsel for the trustees, suggested that the whole matter should be referred to arbitration, that the gentlemen in the room, occupying the highest ministerial position and authority, were fully qualified to settle such a question, which it was to be regretted had ever been obliged to be brought into Court. The Examiner (Mr. Beavan) concurred, and said such a case ought certainly to have been settled out of Court. A conversation then ensued between all the parties present; but while a great deal was said of willingness to settle it, there did not appear to be any definite plan proposed. It will be a matter of satisfaction if the quarrel between Mr. Gordon and the Broad-street Church can be arranged without any further scandal being caused.

On Thursday, the 4th, the solicitors of the trustees wrote to Mr. Gordon offering to refer the whole matter in dispute to arbitration. The following extract from the letter shows the nature of the offer:—"We are still, however, quite willing, as far as possible, to give effect to the views expressed by Dr. Binney, Dr. Raleigh, Dr. Halley, Mr. Allon, and other eminent ministers who were then present, all of whom appear to be very desirous that the question and all matters in dispute in the cause should be referred to the arbitration of some leading members of the Congregational Body. Our counsel stated to them his entire concurrence in this proposition, and we offered to do whatever is necessary to carry it into effect. Our clients are still willing to do so. They conceive it to be the duty as trustees to do whatever they can to facilitate an arrangement, and the object of our writing is to leave no room for doubt on this point." In their reply, Mr. Gordon's solicitors say, "We shall be happy to receive any definite proposal for a settlement which you may be advised to make; but it is clear, a reference to gentlemen, who are themselves at variance on the sole points in dispute, can give satisfaction to no one."

ELECTION PETITIONS.

CHELTENHAM.—The Cheltenham petition inquiry terminated on Thursday. Mr. Baron Martin declared that the election was as fair and honest as had ever taken place; that Mr. Samuelson was duly elected; and that the costs must follow the event.

STALYBRIDGE.—On Saturday Mr. Sidebottom, the Conservative sitting member, was declared duly elected, and Mr. Justice Blackburn held that there was no evidence of intimidation or treating, but there was bribery in a mild form by the promise of payment of wages to voters. The agency, however, was not sufficiently proved to void the election.

GREENOCK.—The inquiry with reference to the election of Mr. J. J. Grieve for Greenock, which has been going on in that town for some days, was closed on Saturday evening. The return of Mr. Grieve was petitioned against by Mr. W. D. Christie, the defeated candidate, on the grounds of treating, undue influence, and intimidation. The judge decided that none of the charges had been made out so as to warrant him in upsetting the election. He should, therefore, certify to the Speaker of the House of Commons that Mr. Grieve was duly elected, and report that no corrupt practices were proved to have been committed by or with knowledge or consent of the candidate, and that there was no reason to believe that corrupt practices had extensively prevailed at the election.

TAMWORTH.—The decision on the Tamworth election petition was given on Monday. Both Sir Robert Peel and Sir Henry Bulwer are declared duly elected. Mr. Justice Willes went through the several cases of alleged intimidation, stating the grounds on which he had arrived at the conclusion that the petitioners had failed to establish them. On the question of costs his lordship said Sir Robert Peel, who had been returned by fair means and by a majority which unmistakeably pronounced the opinion of the people in his favour, and who never would have been petitioned against but for his alleged connection with Sir H. Bulwer, must have his costs. With regard to Sir H. Bulwer, having in view the employment, which had been proved, on his behalf of 130 men, although that employment had not in point of law affected the election, he should abstain from ordering the petitioners to pay the costs. The learned judge said he should report to the Speaker that no corrupt practices were proved to have been committed by or with the knowledge or consent of any candidate at the election, and that from the evidence before him it did not appear that corrupt practices had prevailed.

COVENTRY.—Mr. Justice Willes opened the trial of the Coventry petition against Mr. Staveley Hill and Mr. Eaton, on Monday. The petition alleges bribery, treating, and undue influence, and the payment of money before the election in order to influence the return. Yesterday, Mr. H. James, in opening the case, enumerated many cases in which payments had been made to out-voters for coming to Coventry, cases of actual bribery, offers of bribes and employment and colourable employment. He complained of witnesses having been "spirited away."

WESTMINSTER.—Baron Martin was escorted in state to the Sessions House at Westminster on Friday morning, to open the trial of the petition of Mr. James Beal and others against the return of Mr. Smith for Westminster. Mr. Fitzjames Stephen, in his opening statement, said the ground of complaint against Mr. Smith was that he had been guilty of bribery and treating, and one strong indication of bribery was furnished by the enormous expense he had incurred. Mr. Smith's expenses for Westminster in 1865 amounted to 5,000*l.*; at the last election they were 8,909*l.* 17s. 7d., or 1*l.* 3s. 3d. per head for each of each of his 7,648 voters. The joint expenses of Messrs. Grosvenor and Mill were something under 2,300*l.* He should contend, Mr. Stephen said, that the election must be declared void, on the ground that bribery had been committed by one Henry Edwards, whom he described as a convicted and professional briber, and who had been employed for the direct purpose of carrying on his trade. In 1851 this person was in prison for eighteen weeks for keeping witnesses out of the way in reference to the St. Albans election, and it is recorded in the journals of the House of Commons that in eight elections at St. Albans he expended upwards of 26,000*l.* in bribes. The nature of the bribery Mr. Stephen undertook to prove was that of making colourable payments to voters, and giving them exorbitant sums for the exhibition of notice-boards. There was another case of a more serious character in connection with the drinking at a place called the Merlin's Cave. Mr. Jenkins, a well-known agent of Mr. Smith, sent his father to offer Colonel Dickson any sum, from 500*l.* to 5,000*l.*, if he would stand for Westminster, but Colonel Dickson declined, on the ground of his unwillingness to oppose Mr. Mill. One witness against Mr. Smith is a former secretary of one of the precious "London and Westminster Working Men's Constitutional Associations"—the "Mayfair branch," who appears to have ratted. The witness said in his cross-examination that he had made a demand for payment of certain expenses Mr. Smith which had been refused, and then seeing an advertisement asking for information of corrupt practices, he went and told his story. This witness added that he had given up being a Conservative—a Conservative was a rank humbug—but he meant to stick to the Protestant faith. Asked for his definition of a Liberal, "A Liberal, sir," he said, "if he is a man and a gentleman, is a Liberal." On the opening of the court on Saturday Mr. John Wheeler, of Carpenter-street, Mount-street, was called, and complained that a Mr. Bailey, who is connected with the Working Men's Constitutional Association, grossly insulted him on leaving the

court on the previous day. Baron Martin said that if any one annoyed a witness he would send him to prison for twelve months, and, if he were in a respectable position in life, he would fine him a considerable sum of money in addition. The evidence given on that day and on Monday, related chiefly to the liberal sums given for boardmen and other agents of Mr. Smith, and to the treating cases. The case for the petitioners closed yesterday morning, and Mr. Hawkins, Q.C., replied for the defence. Mr. Baron Martin said there was no evidence of undue influence, and the strongest case of treating was that referring to the champagne. Mr. Hawkins, therefore, said he should confine himself chiefly to the two specific cases of bribery alleged—that of Holland, and that of Waterman. He should also deliberately put before the court the issue that the two witnesses, Charles and W. Wheeler, had committed perjury. Mr. Smith, the sitting member, was the first witness called. With regard to the employment of Edwards, he said that person was recommended to him by one of his (Mr. Smith's) friends. He acted solely as canvass agent, and his duties involved the expenditure of money, under the control of Mr. Isaacson. Mr. Smith gave an emphatic denial to the allegations of bribery and treating. Mr. Henry Edwards was afterwards put in the witness-box; and the trial was adjourned till to-day.

PETITIONS WITHDRAWN.—At Dublin Mr. Justice Keogh has consented to the withdrawal of the petition lodged by the Hon. David Plunket, the co-candidate of Sir Arthur Guinness at the election, against the return of Mr. Jonathan Pim; and at Gloucester, the petition against the Liberal sitting members, Mr. Price and Mr. Monk, is to be withdrawn, the petitioners paying the costs. The petitions against Mr. Barclay, M.P. for Taunton, and against Lord George Cavendish, the Liberal sitting member for North Derbyshire, are to be withdrawn.

Postscript.

Wednesday, February 17, 1869.

OPENING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.

Yesterday afternoon the eighth Parliament of the present reign met for the despatch of business. The royal message, which was read by the Lord Chancellor, was as follows:—

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

I recur to your advice at the earliest period permitted by the arrangements consequent upon the retirement of the late Administration.

And it is with special interest that I commend to you the resumption of your labours at a time when the popular branch of the Legislature has been chosen with the advantage of a greater enfranchisement of my faithful and loyal people.

I am able to inform you that my relations with all Foreign Powers continue to be most friendly; and I have the satisfaction to believe that they cordially share in the desire by which I am animated for the maintenance of peace. I shall at all times be anxious to use my best exertions for the promotion of this most important object.

In concurrence with my Allies I have endeavoured by friendly interposition, to effect a settlement of the differences which have arisen between Turkey and Greece; and I rejoice that our joint efforts have aided in preventing any serious interruption of tranquillity in the Levant.

I have been engaged in negotiations with the United States of North America for the settlement of questions which affect the interests and the international relations of the two countries; and it is my earnest hope that the result of these negotiations may be to place on a firm and durable basis the friendship which should ever exist between England and America.

I have learnt with grief that disturbances have occurred in New Zealand, and that at one spot they have been attended with circumstances of atrocity. I am confident that the Colonial Government and people will not be wanting either in energy to repress the outbreaks, or in the prudence and moderation which I trust may prevent their recurrence.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,—

The Estimates for the expenditure of the coming financial year will be submitted to you. They have been framed with a careful regard to the efficiency of the Services, and they will exhibit a diminished charge upon the country.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The ever-growing wants and diversified interests of the Empire will necessarily bring many questions of public policy under your review.

The condition of Ireland permits me to believe that you will be spared the painful necessity which was felt by the late Parliament for narrowing the securities of personal liberty in that country, by the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act.

I recommend that you should inquire into the present modes of conducting Parliamentary and Municipal Elections, and should consider whether it may be possible to provide any further guarantees for their tranquillity, purity, and freedom.

A measure will be brought under your notice for the relief of some classes of occupiers from hardships in respect of rating, which appear to be capable of remedy.

You will also be invited to direct your attention to Bills for the extension and improvement of education in Scotland; and for rendering the considerable revenues of the endowed schools of England more widely effectual for the purposes of instruction.

A measure will be introduced for applying the principle of representation to the control of the county-rate, by the establishment of financial boards for counties.

It will be proposed to you to recur to the subject of bankruptcy, with a view to the more effective distribution of assets and to the abolition of imprisonment for debt.

The ecclesiastical arrangements of Ireland will be brought under your consideration at a very early date, and the legislation which will be necessary in order to their final adjustment will make the largest demands upon the wisdom of Parliament.

I am persuaded that, in the prosecution of the work you will bear a careful regard to every legitimate interest which it may involve, and that you will be governed by the constant aim to promote the welfare of religion through the principles of equal justice, to secure the action of the undivided feeling and opinion of Ireland on the side of loyalty and law, to efface the memory of former contentions, and to cherish the sympathies of an affectionate people.

In every matter of public interest, and especially in one so weighty, I pray that the Almighty may never cease to guide your deliberations, and may bring them to a happy issue.

The address in the Lords in reply to the Royal Speech was moved by Lord CARYSFORT, and seconded by Viscount MONCK.

Lord CAIRNS commended the caution of the Royal Speech. He doubted whether the end proposed by the Conference, if agreed in by the Great Powers, might not have been attained by direct representations to Greece, without resort to so hazardous a machinery. He supposed that the passage in the Speech relating to the changes contemplated in respect to Parliamentary and municipal elections did not imply an intention to legislate directly or to issue a Royal Commission of inquiry, but rather to recommend a Committee of Parliament—a somewhat unusual suggestion in a Royal Speech. As for the clause about rating, he awaited information on the hardships of the present system. He was surprised, also, at the absence of any promise of a measure on primary education. He could not go into the subject of the Irish Church without further light as to the Government plan than was afforded by the rather fortuitous collocation of nouns and adjectives in which the speech alluded to it. If, however, Lord Monck's expression of opinion on the matter represented the views of the Government, they must look on the question as something Utopian, and as one which had only a remote relation to Ireland. He hoped that at any rate the measure would, when produced, be produced as a whole, and not in instalments. Finally, he appealed to the Government not to let the time of the House be wasted, as sometimes it had been, up to Whitsuntide.

Lord GRANVILLE was grateful for the tone of Lord Cairns' observations; but he thought the criticism on the reference in the Speech to the intention of the Government to propose a Parliamentary Committee on elections uncalled for. Such a suggestion was by no means unprecedented. He was somewhat astonished, too, at Lord Cairns' apparent ignorance that the present arrangements about rating had caused any hardship. He should follow the noble lord in not anticipating the information which the House would very speedily have before it on the subject of the Government measure respecting the Irish Church. The preliminary resolutions would be moved in the other House on the 1st of March.

Their Lordships adjourned at seven o'clock.

At a quarter past four the House of Commons reassembled, and many members, who had either not taken the oaths at the December Session, or had been re-elected, were sworn in. After the reception of the Judges' reports on the election petitions had been announced by the Speaker, and the reports themselves read by the Clerk, the serious business commenced. Amid loud cheers Mr. GLADSTONE at once threw down his gage of battle by giving notice that on the 1st of March he would move that the House resolve itself into a committee to consider the Acts relating to the Established Church in Ireland, the Acts relating to Maynooth, as well as the recommendations of the House last year on the subject. Then followed the announcement of several other measures promised in the Queen's Speech. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave notice of the Bankruptcy Bill; Mr. FORSTER of the Endowed Schools Bill; Mr. AYRTON of a Committee on Pensions. The SOLICITOR-GENERAL was loudly cheered when he gave notice of his intention to introduce the University Tests Abolition Bill. Private members announced the introduction of some important matters of debate. Mr. LEATHAM, amid great cheering, gave notice of motion for an inquiry into the Ballot.

The Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne was then moved, in a remarkably able maiden speech, by Mr. H. COWPER, seconded by Mr. MUNDELLA, who expressed a cordial approval of the general programme of the Government.

Mr. DISRAELI then rose, and his speech was mildly critical, taking up much the same points as were referred to by Lord Cairns in the Upper House. He regretted that no mention was made in the Speech of a general measure of education, and expressed his surprise that the Government should seem to think it a subject which could be passed over and postponed *sine die*. He concluded by a confident anticipation that the new House, by the fair and business-like spirit in which it would discuss the measures laid before it, would justify the wisdom of recent legislation and merit the confidence of the country.

Mr. WHITE (who interposed between Mr. Gladstone and the House) complained of the omission from the Speech of all mention of the Spanish Revolution, to which

Mr. GLADSTONE replied that as yet no permanent Government had resulted from that revolution, and that it would not be convenient to express satisfaction with a work which was not complete. At the same time, there was no doubt that the Government and the people of this country sympathised keenly with the recent events in Spain. Turning to Mr. Disraeli's speech—of which he cordially acknowledged the moderation and fairness—he explained that the Conference was not mentioned because hitherto no regular and formal intimation of the views of Greece had been received, and the Conference was not as yet justified in assuming that its work had been completed. The Conference, designed to prevent an outbreak of war by purely moral means, was a sign of advancement in civilisation on which Mr. Gladstone congratulated the House. As to the paragraph on the American negotiations—though it might not be couched in a tone of extreme confidence—the Government had no doubt that the subject would be dealt with in a conciliatory spirit. Mr. Disraeli, he said, was wrong in supposing that the paragraph recommending an inquiry into the mode of conducting elections inferred that there must be an inquiry in both Houses. It would be sufficient if there was an inquiry in one House or the other, and there was nothing contrary to precedent in mentioning such an inquiry in the Speech. Disclaiming all notion of disparaging Mr. Disraeli's Act of last session, he pointed out that its guarantees of punishment were indirect, while the inquiry recommended contemplated the direct guarantee of prevention. To Mr. Disraeli's complaint of the silence of the Speech as to a general measure of education, Mr. GLADSTONE replied by asking two questions—is a great question forwarded by legislation being promised without any hope of carrying it out? and is a Queen's Speech to enumerate all or even the most urgent measures of the Session? A new Government ought particularly to be on its guard against promising measures without calculating accurately the time of its disposal; and, so far from the programme in the Speech being meagre, Mr. GLADSTONE maintained (receiving a slightly ironical cheer from the Opposition) that the Government would be fortunate if they fulfilled it successfully. They had felt that one question had a paramount claim, and that no secondary matter ought to interfere with it. The Irish Church would afford ample field for party controversy; and the Government, having no desire to widen that field, would endeavour to deal with other questions—even with the ratepaying question—without reference to party conflicts. At the same time he contended that by the mention of Scotch education the Government had manifested their interest in the subject, and the solution of that would aid in solving the problems of the larger measure. Except by the physical impossibility of carrying a measure this session, the omission of such a subject as the relations of landlord and tenant in Ireland could not be justified. But the Irish Church must be the great business of the year, and as it would be prosecuted by the Government with a desire to consult every legitimate interest, and not to provoke any of the animosities with which the subject was beset, he hoped it would be handled by the House, not so much with reference to what might at one time have been desired, as with a desire to co-operate in a settlement which all parties allowed to be essential.

The discussion was prolonged for some time in a more than ordinarily inconsequential and desultory tone.

Ultimately the address was agreed to, and the House adjourned at a quarter to eight o'clock.

REPRESENTATION OF BRADFORD.—The offer on the part of Mr. Miall's friends to submit the selection of a candidate to a test ballot between Mr. Miall and Mr. Thompson was yesterday rejected, and the contest is therefore rendered inevitable. Both parties enter the conflict with vigour, and both seem equally confident of success.—*Daily News.*

Despatches from Brazil confirm the news already received of the complete defeat of Lopez, the capitulation of Angostura, and the occupation of Assuncion by Marshal Caxias. Lopez had gone into the interior, accompanied by the American Minister.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

There was only a moderate supply of English wheat on sale at Mark-lane to-day, but the quality of the samples was improved. All kinds met a dull inquiry, at the nominal rates of Monday last. In foreign wheat there was very little doing, but prices were supported. Barley was dull, and 1s. per qr. lower on the week for both malting and grinding qualities. The malt trade was quiet, at drooping currencies. Good sound oats changed hands to a fair extent, at the recent decline, but inferior corn was neglected. Beans and peas were a dull sale, on the reduced terms of Monday last. The flour trade was very dull, but no change took place in the value of any description.

ARRIVALS THIS WEEK.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	Flour.
English & Scotch	160	710	400	—	—
Irish	—	—	—	280	—
Foreign	7,480	3,070	—	6,240	2,020 sks.
					2,750 bls.

GENERAL GRANT'S SECRETARY.—A Washington correspondent writes:—"Would you like to know the most uncomfortable man on earth? His name is Adam Badeau. He is General Grant's confidential secretary. For six months he has spent four hours per day in tearing up applications for office. Grant never sees the letters—hence his jolly health. Badeau is a martyr; but he fights well. You see him at noon grimly grinning over a bushel of letters, of which three pecks are asking for Cabinet offices. At one o'clock you can see his shoulders; at three the heap is finished, and possibly ten out of 5,000 notes are reserved for Grant's opinion."

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A Deacon."—We have already inserted one of his letters, and no useful purpose would be answered by a repetition of the same statements. Though penny readings may be here and there abused, that is no argument against the judicious use of entertainments which have been successfully given throughout the country.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1869.

SUMMARY.

Two leading newspapers, this morning, simultaneously assure us that the Parliamentary Session "has come in like a lamb," and there is no gainsaying the truth of the description. So far as the Opposition leaders were concerned, the debate on the Address was formal and studiously moderate; Lord Cairns, the new Conservative chief in the Lords, being possibly a shade more incisive than Mr. Disraeli. The late Prime Minister was dignified as well as temperate. Objections, according to traditional usage, must be made; so Mr. Disraeli criticised the mentioning in the Royal Speech of a proposed inquiry into the mode of conducting parliamentary and municipal elections, which was to be dealt with, not by a Royal Commission, but by a Commons Committee. Both the Conservative spokesmen were quite plaintive in their complaint that the question of primary education was excluded from the programme of the Session; but Mr. Gladstone made the sufficient reply that it was undesirable to include in the Queen's Speech a number of measures, however important, which could not at present be carried.

The most interesting incident of the first night of the Session was the Prime Minister's announcement, to which there were responsive cheers, that on the 1st of March he would move that the House of Commons should go into Committee on the Acts relating to the Irish Church and to Maynooth, and on the first Resolution of last Session. In his subsequent speech, Mr. Gladstone expressed his anxiety that this, the great work of the Session, should be prosecuted with a desire to afford a just satisfaction to every legitimate interest; and said that there should be on the part of the Government every study to satisfy the sympathies, and, if they could, not to provoke the animosities by which the question is beset. Mr. Disraeli was reserved and moderate in his reference to the subject. His marked recognition of the fact that the sense of the country had been emphatically declared in favour of the Government and its Irish Church policy, and his expression of a hope that the proposals of the Government, when submitted, will be gravely and impartially considered, *may* perhaps imply that the Conservatives will reserve their opposition for the details rather than the principles of the Ministerial measure. "Mr. Disraeli," remarks the *Daily News*, "is too shrewd a man not to see—especially since the conclusive failure of his own scheme for securing religious equality by levelling upwards—that the Church question in Ireland can be settled in one way only. A wise and patriotic acquiescence in what he perceives to be the irrevocable decision of the nation would secure him the respect and gratitude of his countrymen, and cast many errors into the shade."

The remaining proceedings of last night were not without significance. The reports of the judges of the court of election petitions, which have sealed the fate of not a few scarcely-fledged members, were read in solemn silence; and the Attorney-General gave notice that he should move for the production of the evidence in the case of the Norwich and Bewdley election inquiries. The Government measures announced were a Bankruptcy Bill, one for dealing with Endowed Schools, and a third for compensating high officials whose services are to be dispensed with. Sir John Coleridge made the welcome announcement that as early as the 23rd inst. he should ask leave to introduce the University Tests Bill, which will henceforward be a Government measure. The notices of private motions, including one by Mr. P. A. Taylor, for the payment of members, will provide an ample list of topics for discussion apart from the Ministerial programme.

Three election petitions have been decided during the week, but no additional members have been unseated. Mr. Grieve has been pronounced duly elected for Greenock, and Mr. Samuelson, with the judge's commendation of his pure election, for Cheltenham. In the case of Staleybridge a good deal of treating was proved, but it was not brought home to Mr. Sidebottom, the sitting member. The seats of Sir R. Peel and Sir H. Bulwer, the members for Tamworth, have been assailed, but both have been declared duly elected; though Sir Henry was not allowed costs, in consequence of some 130 men having been employed on his behalf in the electoral conflict. In respect to Westminster, the case against Mr. W. H. Smith, the Conservative member, does not appear very strong; but there is a formidable list of charges against the Conservative members for Coventry, which are now being investigated by Mr. Justice Willes. Several other election petitions, the overworked judges not opposing, have been withdrawn, though a considerable number still remain to be tried.

It will be seen that Bradford is already plunged into the excitement of another election contest. The nomination of Mr. M. W. Thompson as a candidate in succession to Mr. Ripley, is regarded by Messrs. Forster and Miall's supporters as a direct defiance. Though, in a spirit of conciliation, they proposed to their opponents that a preliminary test ballot of the whole constituency shall decide between them—a suggestion which was yesterday rejected—they have agreed, with remarkable unanimity, at a conference of ward delegates, at an open-air assembly of working men, and finally at a great meeting at St. George's Hall, that Mr. Miall shall be the accepted candidate of the Liberal party, but that he shall be relieved "from any personal effort in the coming election." The local *Observer* urges the Liberals to "gird up their loins and endeavour to make Bradford deserve well of the country in the manner in which Greenwich, by electing Mr. Gladstone in his absence, has earned for itself so high a name among constituencies." It is thought that the contest will be over before the end of next week. At a public meeting, presided over by the Mayor, at which both parties were represented, it was agreed that in the coming election no public-houses should be used as committee rooms. There is hope, therefore, of a pure election on both sides.

France is once more dissatisfied; and in this case Belgium is the offender. A scheme for fusing the French Eastern Railway with the line to Luxembourg—which would have given France a fine strategic position in case of a war with Prussia—has been frustrated by the veto of the Brussels Legislature. The Paris journals, semi-official and opposition alike, are furious at the effrontery of Belgium. France has been insulted by her puny neighbour, who has become the mouthpiece of Prussian insolence; and the *Peuple*, the favourite organ of the Emperor, declares that Belgium has now become the advance-guard of the Prussian army, and a standing menace for France! One can account for the ire of the Imperialist journalists by the approach of a General Election, and the consequent necessity of distracting public attention from domestic reforms, but why this susceptibility, and eagerness to fall into the Imperialist trap, on the part of the French Liberal organs?

The new Hellenic Cabinet has formally accepted the Paris Declaration, which the Conference meet to-morrow together to receive and take note of. Turkey and Greece are now at peace, but the troubles of the Sultan are not yet over. He has lost in Fund Pasha his most sagacious counsellor, and he has got into a quarrel with Persia, which threatens a new Asiatic war, and will delight his watchful Muscovite enemy. Nothing could be more unfortunate for the Ottoman Empire than that at a time when it is threatened with disruption, its resources should be wasted in a conflict with an impalpable foe on the extreme Eastern frontier.

On Thursday the Constituent Cortes of Spain was formally opened by an address from the Provisional Government, of which Marshal Serrano was the mouthpiece, giving needful explanations, but revealing no definite policy. That Assembly, which has chosen as its President Signor Rivero, a Democrat, though not a Republican, by a large majority, will not be constituted till Friday. The situation is thus defined by the special correspondent of the *Times*:—The idea of a triumvirate is abandoned; Montpensier is unacceptable; and Spain is drifting into a Republic. A prolonged interregnum is probable, to be succeeded either by the restoration of the Bourbon dynasty under Queen Isabella's son, or—which is more likely—the raising of Prim to the Presidency, with the ready consent of the Cortes.

The United States Senate have passed by more than the requisite two-thirds majority an amendment to the Constitution already adopted by the House of Representatives, prohibiting "any disqualification in the exercise of the suffrage on account of either race, colour, nativity, property, education, or creed." We suppose that this resolution will take the usual course—that is, that President Johnson will veto the Bill and Congress pass it over his head. It will be perhaps the last great and crowning act of the present Legislature. In the new Congress the Republicans will no longer have a two-thirds majority, and with Grant at the White House it will hardly be needed. The constitutional amendment will however have to go to the several State Legislatures, and when the ratification of two-thirds of them has been obtained—of which there is little doubt—the last vestige of political disability will have disappeared from the American Union.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

LIKE ourselves, we fancy, many of our readers will have felt, on commencing the reading of the Queen's Speech, a shade of disappointment. The occasion is one of the highest historic interest. The House of Commons now assembled represents in a much wider and truer sense than ever before, the *people* of the United Kingdom. Parliament is avowedly entering upon a new epoch of legislative enterprise and labour. Great questions—questions touching the most important national interests—are awaiting solution. We have a Cabinet of rare political reputation and intellectual power, presided over by a Premier who, if he has a natural leaning towards prescription, has shewn, in many ways, a superiority to mere conventional forms. We therefore deemed it not altogether unlikely that the Queen's Speech would assume a dignity befitting the circumstances, and might so far depart from time-worn precedents as to exhibit a less slipshod style than that which has been common in this kind of State-paper. Well, we cannot pretend that our expectations have been realised. The old form re-appears in the old loose and shabby dress. The paragraphs devoted to foreign and colonial affairs are put together with discreditable negligence; and although they are preceded by a reference to the novel circumstances under which the House of Commons was returned, one could have desired that history would not have had to record that reference in language so frigid and disjointed as the following:—"And it is with special interest that I commend to you the resumption of your labours at a time when the popular branch of the Legislature has been chosen with the advantage of a greatly enlarged enfranchisement of my faithful and loyal people."

The Speech adverts in the usual manner to the friendly relations of her Majesty with foreign Powers—expresses pleasure at the settlement of the Turco-Hellenic quarrel by the "friendly interposition" of Conference—rather drily mentions the negotiations which have resulted in the so-called Alabama Convention—and sounds a note of grief over disturbances which have occurred in New Zealand, and which "at one spot have been attended with circumstances of atrocity." Possibly one is the more strongly tempted to scan with a critical eye the opening sentences of this Royal Message, because they tell us nothing which has not long since become stale, and make no announcement the meaning of which can succeed in diverting the reader's attention from the diction. We are happy, however, to notice one slight novelty of form which we hope will for many Sessions to come cease to present itself as a novelty. It occurs in the paragraph especially devoted to "Gentlemen of the House of Commons"; and is indicated by the few words we have printed in italics. "The estimates for the expenditure of the coming financial year will be submitted to you. They have been framed with a careful regard to the

efficiency of the services, *and they will exhibit a diminished charge upon the country.*"

Enough of verbal criticism. We advance to matters of much deeper interest, and upon which we can comment with more than ordinary satisfaction. What is the programme of the Session? That, after all, is the question we most eagerly crave to see answered in a Queen's Speech, and that question *is* answered with tolerable fulness in the Speech before us. In the first place, both for the sake of our own self-respect, of our credit abroad, and of the feelings of loyal-hearted Irishmen, we rejoice that the further suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act is not deemed to be necessary. This is duly announced, and then comes a very gratifying surprise. True, no definite measure is promised—but without waiting even to be asked, far less to be urged, Government recommends, with the *prestige* which any such recommendation acquires when adopted by the Crown, that an inquiry should be instituted by Parliament "into the present modes of conducting Parliamentary and municipal elections," with a view to provide further guarantees "for their tranquillity, purity, and freedom." Here is the first practical shadowing forth of Mr. Gladstone's declaration to his constituents at Greenwich—"Whether free voting can or cannot be secured without secret voting, free voting we must have." No announcement could be more opportune. The disgraceful facts dragged to light by the new method of trying election petitions have already opened channels for a useful course of investigation. Following close upon this paragraph we encounter the compound householder once more. A measure "for the relief of some classes of occupiers from hardships in respect of rating," points, we take for granted, to a reconstruction of facilities for compounding the lowest class of rates—possibly for exemption from them, as in Scotland.

The Speech passes on thenceforward to weightier and more difficult subjects inviting legislative interposition. Primary education in Scotland is considered susceptible of extension and improvement at once—for the Scotch are agreed upon what they want. In England, further time, it is supposed, is required to mature a comprehensive scheme; but a Bill "for rendering the considerable revenues of the Endowed schools more widely effectual for the purposes of instruction" will be introduced. A measure for the establishment of financial boards for applying the principle of representation to the control of the county rate—carrying into effect another of Mr. Gladstone's electoral pledges—is also promised. Then, *Ecce iterum Crispinus!* another Bankruptcy Bill is brought into view, the leading objects of which are described to be "the more effective distribution of assets, and the abolition of imprisonment for debt."

The Irish Church question, as being the most important of all, is reserved for the last paragraphs. The old watchwords, "disestablishment" and "disendowment" are properly set aside, as savouring too strongly of party, and too certain of raising discussion at an inconvenient time. Yet, it is interesting to observe how, through words which will commit nobody to anything, a spirit of honest determination, and, it may be added, of conscious strength, gleams forth. "The ecclesiastical arrangements of Ireland will be brought under your consideration *at a very early date*, and the legislation which will be necessary in order to their *final* adjustment, will make *the largest demands* upon the wisdom of Parliament." The measure, then, we confidently assume, by which Mr. Gladstone's policy, initiated last Session, is intended to be carried into effect, will be proceeded with immediately, will aim at the completest settlement of the controversy, so that it may never again be resuscitated, and will not be accommodated in its provisions to petty party whims and preferences, with a view to secure for it the support of timid statesmen or wavering politicians. But what is it designed to do? What are its main objects? Wherein will consist its leading principles? "To promote the welfare of religion through the principles of *equal justice;* to secure the action of the undivided feeling and opinion of Ireland on the side of loyalty and law; to efface the memory of former contentions; and to cherish the sympathies of an affectionate people." Of course, in the prosecution of the work, Parliament "will bear a careful regard to every legitimate interest which it may involve." But it will be an enterprise as honourable and as pious, as it is vast and difficult, and hence there is more meaning than usual in the closing sentence of the Royal Speech, "In every matter of public interest, and especially in one so weighty, I pray that the Almighty may never cease to guide your deliberations, and may bring them to a happy issue."

Such, then, is the legislative "bill of fare" which the Liberal Government has put into the hands of the first Session of the Reformed Parliament. If all these promises can be redeemed by performance before the Houses rise for their next long vacation, the country will have reason to be more than satisfied, and will, no doubt, the more patiently and confidingly wait for many salutary and much needed changes which have escaped mention in this Speech, and most of which will probably have to be postponed to a more fitting opportunity.

THE CHARITIES OF LONDON.

A FEW days since the *Times* published some elaborate tables, containing an analysis of the accounts of London Charities drawn up by Mr. G. M. Hicks, which has given renewed impulse to the question how the pauperism of London should best be dealt with. These tables go to show that exclusive of the revenues of the great endowed hospitals, the charitable institutions of the City of London, the City Companies, or any strictly parochial charities, more than two millions sterling are spent by organised societies in the metropolis for benevolent purposes, and that the item of "plant," agency, and expenses absorbs about one fourth of the entire amount. This synopsis is, however, so far incomplete, that according to the new Bishop of London, there now exist in the metropolis more than a thousand associations for charitable purposes, administering annually about 4,000,000*l.*, this being an average of 4,000*l.* for each society. Moreover, Dr. Jackson, who was formerly a London incumbent, is struck with the increase of charitable societies since he left the metropolis in 1851. Their number is one-fourth more than it then was, and their aggregate income has been augmented by one-third. Imposture is more rife, and the pauperising spirit as manifest as ever. As societies multiply, impostors thrive; and all this without the slightest diminution of the poor-rates, which have been rising up to a recent period in most London parishes, and provide at the present time for more than 150,000 destitute persons.

A very cursory examination of Mr. Hicks's synopsis indicates that the case he has made out is not—taking his tables solely as a basis—so bad as might appear. London is the capital of the United Kingdom, and the natural centre of a number of charitable institutions, the benefits of which are far from being limited to the metropolis. Probably not fewer than a third of the societies he enumerates either operate upon the country at large, or cannot properly be classed with charities in the proper sense of the word. Such is the character of most of the orphanages and asylums, training institutions and reformatories, included in his list. A great deal of the money of these institutions is obtained in the provinces, and expended for the benefit of persons who cannot be regarded as Londoners. It is absurd to speak of the Church associations, such as the Pastoral Aid Society, which altogether swell the total amount by 180,000*l.*, as charities. The Religious Tract Society, having for its object, not the relief of the want and suffering of London, but the "publication and circulation of religious books in foreign countries and throughout the British dominions," is credited with contributing 114,000*l.* to benevolent purposes in London. The Christian Knowledge Society, the National Society for Promoting Education, the Wesleyan Training College, and even the Congregational Pastors' Retiring Fund—and these are but illustrative specimens of the list—are pressed into Mr. Hicks's service to shew the extent of metropolitan charities!

Nevertheless, it is to be feared that, making all needful exceptions, the Bishop of London's estimate of the aggregate value of metropolitan charities may not be very wide of the mark, and that, as the *Times* observes, "nobody can doubt that if the Poor-law on the one hand, and our various charities on the other, were properly administered, want and suffering ought to disappear from the metropolis. Money enough is provided in one way or the other for the complete relief of every imaginable need." The problem to be solved is how these vast sums, contributed partly by voluntary contributions, and partly collected in the shape of rates, can be best utilised for the common good. Dr. Hawksley's idea of securing a successful administration of the various metropolitan charities in conjunction with Poor-law relief is very captivating, but quite impracticable. You might as well try to amalgamate oil and water. There is, moreover, sufficient waste and jobbery in the working of the poor-law system in London to make us mistrust any such proposal. And after all, the multiplicity of societies is not altogether an unmixed evil in this vast city. It is true that some of them having the same object in view are unnecessary, and that the working expenses are in inverse proportion to their income. But numerous small charities secure the great advantages of dispersion, and their centralisation would be perhaps as great an evil as is ill-regulated benevolence. There is much truth in the remark made at the Society of Arts conference on Thursday by Mr. Macare Moir, that "the nearer they got to the heart that prompted the gift, the better it would be for all parties"; and that the multiplication of small charities had the desirable effect of securing personal contact between giver and receiver.

The conference referred to was unable to agree in accepting Dr. Hawksley's elaborate scheme for combining the action of charitable institutions with the system of poor relief, though ready to affirm the necessity of procuring by legislation and otherwise an organisation of the London charities, without pledging itself as to the particular mode in which that object should be effected. Possibly legislation might do something in the case, though it is not easy to see in what shape Parliament can effectually intervene. Public opinion can probably do more, and the information that is coming to light will, to a great extent, if rightly used, guide the promptings of benevolence. Charitable institutions are mainly dependent for support upon voluntary contributions, and it is in the power of subscribers to give or withhold at their pleasure. Many of the societies are to a great extent vested interests by which their managers rather than the poor benefit, and though those who sustain could extinguish them, the Government could not.

The *Times* has written three articles on the subject, but is still in the dark as to the most effectual remedy for the evil. "Large sums," it is said, "are consumed in expensive and superfluous machinery, and large sums again are lavished in the support and encouragement of systematic and organised imposture. In the meantime, though charity so freely gives, deserving poverty is not relieved; whereas, by a simple economy of existing means, the sick and needy could be effectually assisted, the suffering poor preserved from pauperism, and the natural surplus of a fast-increasing population enabled to remove to new homes in vacant and attractive lands." True; but how is that "simple economy of existing means" to be effected? Dr. Hawksley has ventilated a plan, but it is not accepted; and probably all that will be done at present will be to enlighten the public and dispose the benevolent to expend their money in quarters where the result will be plainly visible. This after all would be no slight gain. When the local government of London is less chaotic, there will be a better hope of dealing effectually with the charities of London.

THE LEGAL POSITION OF TRADES-UNIONISM.

ARE trades unions legal, or otherwise? If they are illegal, in what does their illegality consist, and how far does it extend? These are most important questions, and are not unlikely to engage the attention of Parliament during the present Session. Certainly it is time that something was done in the matter. Nothing has conduced more largely to increase and perpetuate the feelings of bitter animosity with which, in this country, employers and employed are frequently to be found mutually regarding each other, than the vague, incomprehensible, and often contradictory state of the law with respect to combinations of working men. It is only within the last forty-five years that the right of working men to combine for trade purposes has been admitted. From the time of Edward I. until the year 1824 the laws relative to combinations operated most unjustly and oppressively on the interests of the working men. They were restrained from combining together, no matter how peaceably, in order to fix the rate of their wages, or to regulate the hours of their working, or, indeed, in any way to interfere with the mode of conducting any business or manufacture. But the employers were not subjected to these restrictions. Capital might combine against labour, but labour was not allowed to combine against capital. It was, practically, a disguised system of serfdom, traceable back through many generations, through the feudal period, to the time when society was divided into two classes—masters and serfs. Employers and employed have never yet been placed on comparatively equal terms. Previous to the repeal of the Combination Laws in 1824, every attempt on the part of working men to form trades unions was regarded as an indictable offence, punishable with fine or imprisonment. No matter how tyrannical might

be the conduct of an employer, no matter how unjustifiable might be his treatment of those employed by him, the men seldom possessed any actual legal means of redress. The law was entirely on the side of the employers. The injustice, not to say impolicy, of this state of things was so obvious that it could not be defended save by arguments of a most ridiculously illogical and worthless character, such as those with which, previous to the passing of the first Reform Bill, it was vainly attempted to sweep back the rapidly advancing wave of political and social progress. To this long-continued unfair operation of the law affecting combinations much of the existing hostility manifested by working men towards their employers is directly attributable. They have been reared in the belief that capital is the natural enemy of labour, and every attempt at explaining to them the natural working of the laws of political economy has been thwarted by the arbitrary and sometimes unprincipled conduct of the less scrupulous class of employers.

Even after the repeal of the Combination Laws, after the injustice so bitterly complained of had been partially remedied, the unwise and often most unreasonable policy adopted by many of the trades unions, have more than led to expressions of regret that the Combination Laws had ever been repealed. Within the last few months the Sheffield disclosures have led to a loud outcry for the suppression of organisations, the members of which could be guilty of such atrocities as those which had appalled the public mind. The recent decision of the Court of Queen's Bench, declaring trades unions illegal, affords another indication of the strong prejudice existing against these combinations. Yet it is more than doubtful whether the re-imposition of the old Combination Laws would tend to suppress trades-unionism. Experience has shown, again and again, that legal impediments to combinations have no power in diminishing either their numbers or their influence, that their only effect has been to render the members of such societies "more secret and more flagitious in their operations." It is perfectly true that the doctrines held by many of the unionists display a lamentable ignorance of, or contempt for, the fundamental principles of political economy, but is this a failing altogether peculiar to working men? How many of our members of Parliament are familiar with the doctrines of Adam Smith? If political economy is not studied as a branch of education in many of our middle-class schools, can we wonder at its exclusion from the majority of those in which the artisan receives his scanty instruction? Employers very frequently admit the principles of political economy only so far as they coincide with their own views; working men generally do the same; and, between the two, the whole question becomes involved in misunderstandings and confusion, often of a most intricate character. The late Parliamentary inquiry into the state of the law respecting the relations of masters and servants revealed the existence of numerous abuses, by which, in many parts of the kingdom, the labourer is rendered literally a serf in everything but name. To talk of political economy to such men is like making a mockery of their condition. They feel the injustice of their condition, but what means of redress have they? Before we condemn trades unions, we must make sure that they are altogether in the wrong, and this has yet to be proved. Even admitting their doctrines and practices to be wholly intolerable to the interests of the general community, it does not follow that the attempted indiscriminate suppression by force of the same would be successful. Anything like persecution tends to elevate the most despicable doctrines. The fate of Joe Smith was largely instrumental in promoting the spread of Mormonism. If we wish to suppress a doctrine we must never attempt to persecute those who believe in it. If they offend against the law, let them be punished by the law, but unless the law be just and equitable in character, such punishments will fail to check the progress of the obnoxious doctrines and practices.

So with trades-unionism. It has repeatedly been made a matter of complaint that trades-unionists are continually infringing the law, but it does not often appear to have been considered whether it was worth inquiring as to how far the law itself was fair and impartial in its treatment of employers and employed. It is perfectly clear that if capital and labour are to be regulated by the same principles and the same laws, they must be placed as nearly as possible on the same footing. Neither must be allowed to assume a position enabling it to tyrannise over the other. Capital must not be permitted to oppress labour, nor labour to domineer over capital. The tendency of recent legislation on the subject of capital and labour has been to recognise this principle. The movement in favour of arbitration in labour disputes is another step in the same direction. But before anything effectual can be done, it is absolutely necessary that we should be accurately informed as to the actual existing condition of the law relative to trades unions. The Trades Union Commissioners felt the necessity for information of this kind, and their chairman, the Right Hon. Sir William Erle, perceiving its importance, has undertaken to supply it in a little work recently published by him. In this treatise, entitled "The Law Relating to Trades Unions," we have a complete analysis of the whole matter, and in his opening remarks Sir William observes that in stating the common law, he has aimed "to assign some of the reasons for it, both with a view to show that the law is as stated, and also in order to foster loyalty, which increases with the opinion that there is reason for the law. Human life is a progress between two sets of physical and moral agencies perpetually striving against each other—the one on the side of falsehood, malice, and destruction; the other on the side of truth, kindness, and health; and the law, if wisely made and properly administered, maintains truth and kindness and health, and so, among other things, helps persons of honest industry to obey each his own will." How different is this kind of language from that so often formerly employed in discussing the legal position of trades-unionism! It betokens an increasing appreciation of the true relations of employers and employed towards each other, and leads us to entertain a hope that future legislation on the subject will be more logical and impartial than in bygone times. By removing all fair and reasonable grounds for complaint on either side, we tend to mitigate, if not wholly remove, mutual jealousies and animosities, thereby preparing the way for that true union of capital and labour, which, once effected, would operate so advantageously to the interests of both, and assist in preventing the recurrence of those numerous disputes which have so frequently exercised a disastrous influence on the industrial fortunes of this country.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

BRADFORD.

MR. THOMPSON'S CANDIDATURE.

A meeting was held on Thursday evening in St. George's Hall, to receive a report from a committee that had been appointed to select a candidate for the representation of the borough in room of Mr. H. W. Ripley, unseated. Admission was by ticket. The hall was filled in every part, and a good many ladies were present. Mr. S. STORRY occupied the chair, and stated that the committee had selected Mr. Matthew William Thompson as the candidate to be submitted, and that that gentleman had agreed to place himself in the hands of his friends. Mr. THOMPSON, who was enthusiastically received, apologised for the course he had taken last summer on the ground that he could not stand a three months' contest, but he would not attempt to justify it. In conclusion he said:—

You will, if you have any regard for me whatever, take care that to the best of your ability the election will be as pure as an election can be. (Cheers.) I have been taunted with the beer-barrel—("Shame")—I have been taunted with my wealth; it has been laid to my charge that, because I have beer-barrels and wealth, therefore I shall use them to corrupt the people. Now, I do not care a row of pins who says that. (Laughter and cheers.) I know it is not true, and in the coming election no effort shall be spared on my part, and I believe on the part of those who are bringing me forward, to show that the election from top to bottom shall be as pure as elections can possibly be. (Cheers.) I believe that I have the confidence of all in this hall to-night. I believe you intend to place me in the position of a candidate before you leave, and I believe also that you intend to place me in a few days at the head of the poll. (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

Mr. RIPLEY, in moving the acceptance of Mr. Thompson as a candidate, said that notwithstanding the misrepresentation of facts, he felt proud in the belief that the great mass of the inhabitants of the borough really knew how the truth stood, that he was returned honestly and fairly in the last election to the best of his belief—(cheers)—and if things had been done which were wrong, they had been done without his knowledge and consent. Mr. OLIVER, in seconding the resolution, said he looked upon the coming contest with every hope of success, and on the dissolution of Parliament they would return both Mr. Ripley and Mr. Thompson as the members for Bradford. If their member was defeated, the party was not dissolved; if they held firmly together their day of triumph was at hand. They had been wronged, but they would forget and forgive when Messrs. Thompson and Ripley were members for Bradford. Mr. T. GARNET seconded the resolution, which was carried.

OPEN-AIR MEETING OF WORKING MEN.

A meeting, composed for the most part of working men, was held on Saturday afternoon, in Peckover-walk, for the purpose of considering the course to be adopted in connection with the present vacancy in the representation of Bradford. About 5,000 persons were present. Mr. Abraham Sharpe was called to the chair.

After some remarks from the CHAIRMAN, Mr. JOSEPH FOWELL, of Girlington, moved the first resolution, to the following effect:—

That this meeting deeply regrets the division existing in the ranks of the Liberal party in this borough, and, believing that disunion amongst Liberals is detrimental to the progress of Liberal principles throughout the whole country, is of opinion that the best course to be adopted in the election of a Liberal candidate is to test the feeling of the party by the ballot as to who shall be brought forward to occupy the vacant seat; that each section of the party shall become bound to abide honourably by the result of such ballot; that a committee be appointed to negotiate between the executive of the Liberal Electoral Association and Mr. Thompson's executive committee, in order to carry out the ballot; and that the expenses of this friendly contest be equally divided between the two parties.

He said that there would be no difficulty in admitting that good Liberals were plentiful in both sections of the party. Why, then, could they not meet on the same platform, and together advocate the same great cause and principles? (Hear, hear.) Mr. Storey had stated that in bringing forward Mr. Thompson his party were holding out the olive-branch. (Laughter.) If he was sincere in saying so, he could have no objections to carry the principle a little further, and agree to a friendly decision taking place between Mr. Thompson and the other candidate—whoever he might be—proposed by the other section of the party. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) Let each section of the party nominate their man; and a decision having been arrived at by ballot, let the candidate who received the greatest number of votes be supported by all the Liberals of the borough. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) In this way all differences would be settled; the victors and the vanquished could shake hands, and an honourable decision be attained. (Applause.)

Mr. E. BUTTERWORTH, in seconding the resolution, dwelt upon the benefits that would result from the ballot being used to decide the claims of the candidates.

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and adopted unanimously amidst loud cheering.

Mr. GEO. DEMAIN moved the next resolution as follows:—

That this meeting is convinced that had moral right and justice prevailed at the last election Mr. Miall would now have been member for Bradford, and, being of opinion that Mr. Miall should again be brought forward, pledges itself to endeavour to secure his return.

He was thoroughly of opinion that Mr. Miall lost his seat at the last election by illegal means, and that being the case, it was the duty of that gentleman's supporters again to submit his claim to the electors. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Miall was a man of the highest moral and intellectual standing; and it would be an honour to the borough to have him as a representative in Parliament. (Cheers.)

Mr. HENRY BURKE, in seconding the resolution, said that the late contest was principally carried on by the Liberal party of Bradford against an amalgamation of a few Whigs and the Tories. (Cheers.) That amalgamation, on finding out the weakness of their cause, had made use of some of the foulest means for carrying their man, perhaps, ever exposed in a court of justice. (Loud cheers.) The working men who took an active part in that battle felt that they did not lose that fight by fair and legitimate means—(loud cheers)—and that it was a duty incumbent upon them to call in the aid of the strong arm of the law to set them right. The judge decided the question in their favour, and taught their opponents that no election of that sort could possibly stand an investigation. (Cheers.) It was in consequence of that decision that that meeting had been called for the purpose of selecting another candidate, and he had the greatest pleasure in seconding the candidature of Mr. E. Miall. (Loud cheers.) He felt that Bradford would have honoured itself by accepting Mr. Miall. (A voice: "Aye, that's the chap," and cheers.) When defeated Mr. Miall accepted his defeat, not knowing by what means it had been brought about, but still having a strong suspicion respecting it, in that gentlemanly, courteous, and Christian spirit which had endeared him to all their hearts, and they felt that if ever an opportunity should again offer itself the working classes would rally round him and endeavour once more, by every legitimate means in their power, to send him as their representative to the Commons House of Parliament. In accordance with these sentiments he came forward to support Mr. Miall, and he trusted that they would succeed in placing that gentleman at the head of the poll. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. WALLWORK, who supported the resolution, said that was not the first occasion on which he had stood forward on behalf of one of the noblest men England had ever produced, nor was it the first occasion that he had had to lament that Mr. Miall had been unjustly treated, but he was proud to say that retributive justice had fallen upon the heads of the guilty—(loud cheers)—and he was glad to know that they had had to pay the piper. (Renewed cheers.) Mr. Miall had struggled for their liberties, had helped to break the chain which had so long bound them as political serfs in the land of their birth. He had not his politics to learn to-day—(cries of "No, no")—but, from the days of his childhood almost, had looked with an anxious eye to the

time when England would be ruled by the will and the voice of the people. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) Not only had Mr. Miall laboured hard and long, but he had always been found in good company—(laughter)—and they had never found him seeking to be returned by Tory votes, but his party had always been composed of earnest honest men of principle. They had always found him advocating that; whether he was elected or not the contest should be an honest one. (Cheers.) Could they return men to the House of Commons who, by every means in their power, tried to stigmatise the Right Hon. W. E. Forster? He was confident that with the fair and right-minded, Mr. Miall was the choice of the people of Bradford. (Loud cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN, having received no response to his question as to whether any other candidate would be proposed, put the resolution to the meeting, and it was carried with about twenty dissentients, the result being received with great cheering.

On the motion of Mr. FOWLER, seconded by Mr. CHAS. BENTLEY, a committee was appointed to carry out the first resolution; and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

WARD DELEGATE MEETING.

On Friday evening a meeting was held at the rooms of the Bradford Liberal Electoral Association, Darley-street, of delegates selected by the various wards in the borough for the purpose of taking into consideration the coming election. About a hundred gentlemen were present, the room being crowded in every part. Mr. Byles occupied the chair. From every ward came a unanimous vote in favour of Mr. E. Miall, and a determination that he should contest the election with Mr. M. W. Thompson. It was unanimously resolved that Mr. Miall should be recommended as a candidate to a general meeting to be held in St. George's Hall on Monday evening next.

MEETING OF MESSRS. FORSTER AND MIALL'S SUPPORTERS.

(From the *Leeds Mercury*.)

St. George's Hall was on Monday night crowded by an enthusiastic meeting of the electors who supported the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., and Mr. Miall at the recent contest—the object of the gathering being to consider the course to be adopted with respect to the vacancy in the representation caused by the unseating of Mr. Ripley. Admission to the hall was gained by ticket, and long before the hour fixed for opening the proceedings, every part of the vast room was packed. Hundreds, if not thousands, were unable to obtain entrance, and crowded meetings, at which resolutions similar to those adopted in St. George's Hall were carried, took place in the Mechanics' Institution and in the Temperance Hall.

On the motion of Mr. Ald. BROWN, seconded by Mr. WM. ANGUS, Mr. Titus Salt was called to the chair amidst ringing cheers.

The CHAIRMAN, who was cordially received, said he had great pleasure in occupying the position to which he had been called. He was glad to see so many of the fair sex present. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) Their opponents—the two "sweet Williams"—(loud laughter)—had boasted a monopoly of advocates amongst the ladies, so that the present display was highly gratifying. (Cheers.) He perhaps ought to apologise for having been so long absent from Bradford in a political sense. The last occasion on which he appeared before the constituency was when they did him the honour of electing him as their representative—(loud cheering)—an honour which he should never forget. That election, he might remark, was conducted very differently from the late contest. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) When the result was known and declared, there was no parading of the streets with the game cock. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) There was no insult offered to the defeated candidate. (Hear, hear.) Instead of that, he and his honourable opponent—honourable in every sense of the word—shook hands, Mr. Alfred Harris remarking, "Let us both do what we can—you in the House of Commons, and me out of it." (Loud cheering.) He would leave to the movers and seconders of the resolutions any advocacy of the claims of the candidate who was to be proposed—Mr. Miall. (Loud and prolonged cheering, and waving of handkerchiefs.) He would only say that Mr. Miall was worthy of their best exertions, and of all they could do for him. (Cheers.) Mr. Miall as a member of Parliament would be an honour to Bradford and to the country at large. (Great cheering.)

Mr. J. V. GODWIN came forward amidst general cheering to move the first resolution, which was as follows:—

> That all hope of a peaceful solution of the present electoral difficulties of this borough having been frustrated by the hasty action of Mr. Ripley's friends, this meeting feels that no alternative is left but to accept the challenge which has been thrown out by the candidature of Mr. Thompson; and believing that in a contest under such circumstances no man would combine so many votes, or so much enthusiasm, as Mr. Miall, adopts the unanimous recommendation of the several wards, and pledges itself to use all honourable means to secure the return of Mr. Miall at the ensuing election.

The words he should utter in support of the resolution would be very few. In fact, he confessed that he felt too sorrowful at the position in which the borough was placed to indulge in many remarks. The assemblage he saw before him was indeed an immense one; but if there was one man in that meeting who wished for a contest, who would not have clung to the last hope of peace, and who did not deeply regret the necessity of this disturbance of the peace which was forced upon the electors, he for one did not share in his feelings. (Hear, hear.) The responsibility upon those who, under present circumstances, had disturbed the peace of the borough, was deep indeed—(Hear, hear)—and to the best of his judgment he was bound as an honest man to say that that responsibility did not rest upon those now assembled in that hall. ("Hear, hear," and loud cheering.) To his mind the position of matters in the borough was completely changed from the moment when the second petition against Mr. Forster was presented. (Hear, hear.) He could have understood perfectly well why the first petition might have been presented as a sort of lever to procure an inquiry into the conduct of both parties; and that first petition would have resulted in an investigation into the means by which Mr. Forster would have been returned without the presentation of a second petition. (Hear, hear.) When the second petition, therefore, was put forward, it was a distinct avowal of a personal attack upon Mr. Forster—(Hear, hear)—an avowal on the part of those who had all along disclaimed any such intention, of a determination if possible, out of sheer revenge—("Hear, hear," cheers, and cries of "Shame on it")—to visit upon Mr. Forster the sins of the supporters of Mr. Miall, by depriving him of his seat. (Hear, hear.) And, again, if there had not been an animus on the part of the gentlemen on the other side, why should not a different course have been pursued on the termination of the inquiry before Mr. Baron Martin? (Hear, hear.) If there had been a sincere desire for peace on their part, they had only to ask for a conference with the view of a candidate agreeable to both sides being adopted, and to the best of his knowledge their advances would have been met in a corresponding spirit. (Cheers.) But what was the course adopted by the opposite party? Before the inquiry was over they held a meeting in that very hall, and all but cut off hopes of peace by uttering notes of defiance. ("Hear, hear.") Was there any more desire shown for a peaceful solution at the meeting held subsequently in that same hall? He appealed to the judgment of the people of Bradford and to those in other towns who had perused what took place at those two meetings whether it was possible for any man who had hopes of peace to cling to them any longer; and whether it was possible for any man of spirit to do anything else than to accept the challenge that was thrown down? ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) Something was said about olive-branches by one gentleman. (Laughter.) His impression at first was that the reporters, who seldom made mistakes, had for once taken down the wrong words, and that Mr. Storey's phrase was the "prickly holly branch." ("Hear, hear," laughter, and cheers.) The gentleman who offered the olive-branch for acceptance in so courteous a manner had had a good many olive-branches in that town within a short period. (Laughter and cheers.) He himself thought at one time he was one of Mr. Storey's little olive-branches—(loud laughter and cheers)—and since that time all the little innocents whom Mr. Storey had taken in hand had somehow or other unfortunately come to grief. (Laughter and cheers.) After what had taken place he did not think that their party was answerable for the proceedings of that evening. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) The other party was answerable for a disturbance of the peace which might easily have been avoided. (Hear, hear.) The contest had been forced upon them—(cheers)—and to make a slight alteration in the volunteer motto—whilst the conduct of the opposite party had breathed defiance, the present proceedings were taken simply in self-defence. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) Under these circumstances what were they to do? The course that was possible ten days ago was no longer open. There might have been conciliatory measures adopted then; what alternative was now possible? In his judgment they were shut up to one man, and that man, he who was so unjustly defeated at the last election. ("Hear, hear," and loud cheering.) Mr. Miall might fairly say that he had his opponents to thank for being brought forward on the present occasion—(laughter and cheers)—and he hoped and trusted that many of those belonging to that party who did not vote for Mr. Miall at the last election would support him now. He did not know why that should not be done, inasmuch as those who were Mr. Miall's opponents must at least acknowledge that they had in him an honourable man, engaged in an honourable pursuit, whose utterance on the one great question of the day, the disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church, were perfectly clear and distinct. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) And that was more than could be said for the candidate on the other side—(laughter)—because the express stipulation made with that gentleman appeared to be that not only should he not go into details, but that he should not enunciate definite opinions, or give any indication of the course he should pursue on that great question. (Hear, hear.) For that conduct there was a most obvious reason. The opposite party was composed of the most discordant elements; and gentlemen who, to a certain extent, were favourable to the disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church, would find their alliance with others opposed to the measures proposed by Mr. Gladstone on both these questions very anomalous indeed if the selected candidate became at all pronounced as to the manner in which he would vote if sent to the House of Commons. (Hear, hear.) He would ask both sections of that party to remember that one of them could not fail to be bitterly disappointed in the course taken by Mr. Thompson during the late session of Parliament; and he would really appeal to the Conservatives of Bradford—many of whom were his personal friends, and many of whom he deeply respected and esteemed—whether, as honourable and straightforward men, they did not prefer an open avowed opponent such as Mr. Miall to one who displayed so much uncertainty and reticence on the question of disendowment as Mr. Thompson, to one with whose votes they could not fail to be entirely disappointed. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) He would also appeal to that portion of the Liberal party whose union with those assembled at that meeting had proved so pleasant and so profitable on past occasions. (Hear.) Holding less advanced views on general subjects, their object was to exercise a moderating influence upon the extreme party of the borough; but by the course they had taken, and more especially by their conduct at the present conjuncture, they had as it were thrown the reins upon the extreme Liberal party, and had foregone the action of legitimate influence which they might have exercised had they been amongst them. (Hear, hear.) The sooner, therefore, that moderate party came back to the ranks of the great Liberal party, the sooner would they be able to carry out the object they had in view. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) One advantage of the contest being between gentlemen who had previously been before the constituency was that no time need be wasted in discussing their principles either in that hall or anywhere else. All they had to do was to get to the polling-booth as early as possible; and he only wished the election could take place to-morrow. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) Having appealed to the two sections of the constituency not represented at that meeting, might he take the liberty of appealing also to those who were present? (Hear, hear.) There being no necessity for long discussions upon the issue that was before them, let him impress upon them the desirability of abstaining from all personalities. (Hear, hear.) Let the contest be entirely one of principle—(Hear, hear)—as it was to be a contest of purity—(cheers)—no committees at public-houses—(Hear, hear)—no paid canvassers—(Hear, hear)—let them endeavour to make it a business matter from beginning to end—(cheers)—and let them endeavour to refrain from one single word which would make them worse friends with their neighbours at the end of the contest than they were before it commenced. (Cheers.) It was the more easy to adopt that course, seeing that the issue before them was a broad and distinct one, and because it had been rendered much broader by the proceedings at the last two meetings of Mr. Ripley's friends. Instead of being content to share the representation along with the extreme Liberal party, these gentlemen aimed at nothing less than monopolising both seats at the very earliest opportunity. (Hear, hear.) What were the circumstances at the last election? There was a coalition up to a certain point between Mr. Forster and Mr. Miall. On the part of Mr. Forster, whatever might be said as to his hesitancy in entering into the coalition, every one must acknowledge that being in it he carried out its terms with a frankness, a generosity, a chivalry, that raised him to a higher position in the minds of the citizens of Bradford than he had ever occupied before. (Cheers.) Was there nothing to be said on the part of Mr. Miall? (Cheers.) There were times during the polling day when, had Mr. Miall and his friends not kept to their part of the compact, Mr. Forster's seat might have been endangered. (Cheers.) He contended, therefore, that those who had not previously taken part in the responsibility of bringing Mr. Miall forward, ought now, if only out of mere gratitude to the manner in which he kept faith with the party on the polling day, to give him their earnest and strenuous support. The threats uttered by their opponents as to both the seats made it necessary that the greatest unity should prevail, as in fact, as a political party they were fighting for their very existence. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) Under these circumstances he could understand why he had been asked to move that resolution. He did it with all his heart—(loud cheers)—and if his presence and action was to be taken as any sign of the thorough union, any sign of the complete unanimity existing amongst those who at the last election were both Mr. Forster's and Mr. Miall's friends, he was glad to give such a pledge. (Cheers.) The contest about to take place had been forced upon an unwilling town, upon an unwilling country, upon an unwilling party. (Hear, hear.) But now that the glove had been thrown down, it remained for them to pick it up. (Hear, hear.) In the name of the party he did pick up the glove and would only say—"Let the best man win." (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

Mr. THOMAS FIRTH seconded the resolution. After expressing his joy at seeing Mr. Goodwin present, he remarked that he had never believed in a great deal of what was said as to local claims. (Hear, hear.) He did not wish to ignore the politics of his neighbours, but he did not see that because a candidate was his neighbour or his townsman, on that account alone he ought to give him his support. (Cheers.) A man might have an honest heart, a man might act a neighbour's part, and yet have no political support to give to his neighbour. (Hear, hear.) He could not hesitate to second the resolution, and to throw any little influence he might possess into the attempt, if possible, to carry one of the best men they had in this country in the Liberal interest. (Loud cheers.) Politics were not a mere fashion with the gentleman they were called there that night to support. (Hear, hear.) He did not put on his politics and take them off like his gloves. Mr. Miall was a true Liberal from conviction—(cheers)—and was determined to carry out those views irrespective of interest or otherwise. (Loud cheers.) This was the man they ought to support, the man who had done everything for them. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) He considered that Mr. Miall had done for free trade in religion what Cobden had done for

commerce. (Cheers.) He had taken no part in the late election because he believed there would be no difficulty in returning Mr. Miall. (Hear, hear.) He considered that the Liberal party had been working to extend the franchise to the working classes because it was believed they were Liberal to the core. (Hear, hear.) It seemed, however, that he was mistaken, as shown by the late election, and circumstances having changed, he felt with Mr. Godwin that their principles were at stake, and they were now called upon to support those principles. (Cheers.) In conclusion he would like that large assembly to do something to support the present Government in reducing the enormous and lavish expenditure that had been going on for the past twenty years—(cheers)—as it was time for the nation to be determined to have more economical Government and taxation. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. A. BINNS supported the resolution. He said that Mr. Godwin and Mr. Firth had stated they had come from a comparatively neutral party to support Mr. Miall, and they were heartily welcome. (Applause.) He reviewed the political conduct of Mr. Thompson in a sarcastic vein, and, alluding to the recent trial, maintained that Baron Martin had decided, and of right Mr. Miall ought to have the vacant seat. (Cheers.) The "olive-branch" held out by the opposite party looked more like a cudgel than anything else; they looked upon themselves as an injured party, but the man to whom the seat rightly belonged, Edward Miall, was the man in whom they that night placed their hopes, and for whom they would fight to the end. (Applause.) He did not know what Mr. Thompson was politically. (Voices: "Whirligig," and loud laughter.) He told Mr. Samuel Storey and the other leaders as well as the rank and file of their party that they were prepared to fight to the last. (Applause.)

The motion was then put to the meeting, and carried unanimously with loud cheers.

Mr. JOSEPH CRAVEN was the next speaker. He said he was not ashamed to own that Mr. Miall was one of his political fathers. (Cheers.) If there was one man in England for whom he had a respect as a politician, it was for Edward Miall. (Renewed cheering.) In order to conduct Mr. Miall's election successfully an executive committee would be necessary, and he had therefore much pleasure in moving the following resolution:—

Considering the great personal sacrifice which Mr. Miall has already made, this meeting hereby resolves to relieve him from any personal effort in the coming election, and appoints the following gentlemen to be the executive committee to conduct his election, with power to add to the number:—Messrs. Titus Salt, Henry Brown, J. Y. Godwin, R. Kell, James Law, A. Holden, William Byles, C. Hastings, Titus Salt, jun., Jas. Wallwork, Wm. Angus, Abraham Mitchell, Joshua Pollard, Robt. Yates, John Hoby, Chas. Turner, Wm. Maidman, Ald. Rathbone, Benj. Read, Chas. Lund, Ald. Cole, Wm. Whitehead, S. R. Siebel, and G. P. Beaumont.

He wished to add but one sentence. However respectable the executive committee might be, never let them forget that the success of the election depended upon the working men. (Cheers.) If the working classes set to work with heart and soul, and made a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether, Edward Miall would yet be member for Bradford. (Great cheering.)

The resolution was seconded by Mr. JAS. DRUMMOND, and also carried amidst much enthusiasm.

Mr. BYLES moved the next resolution, as follows:—

That Mr. Thompson having been nominated by one portion of the constituency, and Mr. Miall by this meeting as the representative of another portion, this meeting recommends that, to avoid all the unnecessary excitement consequent on a contested election, the choice of a candidate be determined by a test ballot, the details to be arranged by a committee elected from both sides, in equal numbers.

He was not a supporter of the ballot as a portion of our electoral machinery, but for such an object as was contemplated by the resolution, he believed it would be a very fair instrument. (Hear, hear.) He trusted the suggestion would be accepted by the opposite party, and that the dispute as to the representation would be brought to a conclusion without any of those outward exhibitions of evil-speaking and of foolish, unkind actions which, unhappily, had disgraced so many of the people of Bradford in the past. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. JOSEPH FOWLER, who was the proposer of a similar resolution at the working men's meeting on Saturday, seconded the motion. Alluding to the late election, he told Mr. Ripley and Mr. Storey that if there had not been unlimited supplies, there would not have been so much corruption. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) Until they had a good fight, the friends of Mr. Miall could not be satisfied, but on the result of a ballot he would be satisfied. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) If the other side would not accept the ballot, let them have a fair fight, but he cautioned his hearers to fight on principle. If the electors did their duty they would place the man who had been robbed of his seat at the head of the poll. (Loud cheers.)

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

Mr. Ald. BROWN then took the chair, and called upon

Mr. A. ILLINGWORTH, M.P., who was received with hearty cheers, to propose a vote of thanks to the chairman. The hon. gentleman said Mr. Salt had come from his retirement at the call of duty, and when the Liberals had him present among them they had nothing to fear. (Applause.) Times were different now somewhat. They had Mr. Thompson amongst them, but Mr. Miall was absent. (Hear, hear.) They, however, knew Mr. Miall, as he had been with them, and had fully expounded his views. (Applause.) It was not so with Mr. Thompson, who wished to go "free as the wind" on one of the most important topics of the day; and his opinions otherwise were by no means clearly defined. (Hear, hear.) He was looking forward with the greatest gratification to the day when he should shake hands with Mr. Miall on the floor of the House of Commons as member for Bradford. (Loud cheers.) He announced, before sitting down, that the executive committee would meet this morning (Tuesday) at the old rooms, Norfolk-street. (Applause.)

Mr. Ald. SCOTT seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. W. ANGUS, who advised the working men to keep their tickets clean, for he had felt himself humiliated by the manner in which the working men had disgraced the borough. (Hear, hear.) He hoped they would set their faces against any intrigue, and if anything was offered them, he trusted that they would drag the individual or individuals forward and expose them. (Applause.) He trusted they might return Mr. Miall at the head of the poll. (Cheers.)

Mr. Ald. BROWN, in putting the motion, hoped that everyone would go home with a firm determination to succeed and not to relax in their endeavours until they had returned Mr. Miall member for Bradford. (Applause.)

The motion was carried by acclamation, and Mr. SALT having briefly responded, the proceedings terminated with three hearty cheers for Mr. Miall.

Mr. Thompson and his leading friends have already commenced the round of the wards.

The *Bradford Observer* says that the earliest day on which the election can take place is the 25th inst.

PUBLIC-HOUSES AS COMMITTEE-ROOMS.

The *Leeds Mercury* says there seems to be some probability of one very beneficial result following the recent election inquiry at Bradford, viz., the discontinuance at future contests of the use of public-houses as committee-rooms. On Friday a meeting was held at that town, presided over by the mayor, to advocate this alteration, and it was stated that several of the more influential politicians in the borough were resolved not to take part in election matters if public-houses were engaged. It was also stated that the licensed victuallers themselves had taken the initiative by adopting a resolution recommending their brethren in the trade not to entertain election agents in the future.

CITY OF LONDON.—The untimely death of Mr. Bell, the Conservative member for the City, creates a vacancy, which is likely to be filled by Baron Rothschild. The Liberals are in a majority of some 2,000 on the register, and the minority clause does not apply in the case of a single election.

WESTMINSTER.—In the event of the petition against Mr. Smith being successful, it is rumoured that Sir John Lubbock will be invited to contest that city in the Liberal interest, whilst Mr. Smith's friends talk of putting forward Lord Claud Hamilton as the Conservative candidate.

WESTBURY.—Mr. Laverton, the Liberal candidate at the last election, has issued an address to the electors, soliciting their suffrages for the vacancy caused by the unseating of Mr. John Lewis Phipps, the Conservative candidate, who was returned in November last. Mr. Charles Paul Phipps, brother of the unseated member, has also issued a second address to the electors, expressing his determination to contest the seat.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The return of the Court to Windsor is deferred to Friday.

The *Gazette* announces that her Majesty will hold a levee on Friday, March 5, and a drawing-room on the Wednesday following. During the same month his Royal Highness Prince Arthur will also hold two levees on behalf of the Queen.

The Viceroy of Egypt gave the Prince and Princess of Wales a very cordial reception on their arrival at his palace of Kasr-en-nil, Cairo, and himself accompanied them to the palace prepared for them in Esbekieh. On the 4th instant their Royal Highnesses went to see the procession of the departure of the Mahmi, or embroidered covering of the K'abeh, and the so-called "departure of the pilgrims for Mecca," which is in reality a procession of sheiks and holy men and the sacred Mahmel and Kisweh, escorted by irregular cavalry and guns, which leaves the city to go out to the real pilgrims encamped on the plain of Akbar, outside Cairo. They afterwards went *incognito* to the bazaar. They were to take their departure for the Upper Nile on the 6th in a magnificent suite of boats prepared expressly for them by the Viceroy. They were to go, if possible, as far as the second cataract. But the Nile was low for the season. The weather was rather cold for Egypt, but would pass muster very well for an English April.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, First Lord of the Treasury, and Earl Granville, Secretary of State for the Colonies, gave full-dress Parliamentary dinners at their respective residences on Monday evening.

Cardinal Cullen visited their Excellencies the Lord-Lieutenant and Countess Spencer at the Castle on Thursday. Cardinal Cullen arrived at half-past twelve o'clock, accompanied by the Very Rev. Mgr. Moran, private secretary, and was conducted to the drawing-room, where he was received by their Excellencies. Cardinal Cullen took his departure at half-past one o'clock.

Mr. Bright was on Thursday waited upon at the Board of Trade by a deputation from the metropolitan vestries, who urged the right hon. gentleman to take up one of the measures introduced by his predecessor in office, the Duke of Richmond. This provided for the purchase of existing gas companies by the local authorities. Mr. Bright appeared to think that the consideration of the subject might be deferred until the question of municipalities for the metropolis came on for discussion. But he promised that it should receive due attention.

The Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, the new President of the Poor-law Board, appears to be satisfying himself with the condition of our workhouses without the aid of his inspectors. Late on Wednesday night he paid a visit to St. Marylebone Workhouse, and spent a couple of hours, in company with Mr. Douglas, the master, in inspecting the casual wards and a portion of each department of the workhouse, which at present contains nearly 2,000 poor, a larger number than that of any other similar establishment in London.

Another deputation has been waiting upon Mr. Cardwell to endeavour to obtain his assistance in the efforts of the Volunteers to obtain an increase of the Government grant; but it did not get a promise of the money, though the War Secretary promised every help in the way of sheds, of "facilities for headquarters," of arms, stores, *et hoc genus omne*; but he could not give any larger grants.

According to the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, the Conservatives mean to take up the cause of the clerks and workmen who are about to be reduced in the various departments. They threaten, moreover, to have a field night upon the creation of a Third Lord of the Treasury, and the raising of Mr. Stansfeld's salary from 1,000*l.* to 2,000*l.* a-year.

The Fishmongers' Company have made the munificent grant of 1,000*l.* to the Middle-class Schools Corporation.

It is said to be the intention of the Government to establish savings-banks for sailors at all the ports of the United Kingdom.

Miscellaneous News.

THE JAMAICA CASE.—We believe it is the intention of the plaintiff in the case of Phillips *v.* Eyre to carry it into a court of error.—*Law Times.*

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, CALEDONIAN-ROAD N.—Number of patients for the week ending Feb. 13, 1,398, of which 519 were new cases.

LIFE BUOYS.—Mr. James Greenwood (of "amateur casual" memory) writes to the *Star* to expose a terrible fraud that appears to be extensively practised, notwithstanding that it is one involving a question of life or death. It is that the great bulk of the "life buoys" that are being hung outside the shops of marine store-dealers, marked "warranted cork," have, in point of fact, precious little cork about them. They are stuffed for the most part with rushes or straw, with a few cork shavings interspersed. Experiments made with three of these, with a ten-pound weight attached, resulted in one sinking in an hour, another in two hours, and the third floated for four hours. Let the fate of any poor shipwrecked sailor who had trusted to one of these false friends be imagined!

SUNDAY CLOSING OF PUBLIC-HOUSES.—A conference was recently held at Bradford on the subject of the entire closing of public-houses on Sundays, except for the necessary accommodation of travellers, and resolutions were adopted calling upon the Government to introduce a bill with this object in view on the opening of Parliament. The promoters of the meeting have received a reply from Mr. Algernon West on behalf of Mr. Gladstone, in which he states—"Mr. Gladstone desires me to inform you that he is very sensible of the deep interest taken in this question in Bradford and elsewhere, but adverting to the engagements of the Government for the coming session, and to the proceedings of the last session on Mr. John Abel Smith's bill, he is not able to hold out any prospect that the Government will be enabled to propose legislation upon it at an early date."

THE TICHBORNE BARONETCY.—By the arrival of the Pacific mail we learn that the *West Coast Mail* has been informed that the commissioners on the Tichborne case intend returning to England on the 17th instant. It is stated that Sir Roger Tichborne, Bart., or at all events the person claiming to be such, disembarked at Monte Video, *en route* for Chili, *via* the Cordillera, and as he has not yet arrived, his counsel is apprehensive for his safety, more especially as the border provinces are in a very unsettled state. A friend assures us that Sir Roger left Rosario in company with Major Rickards, the Honourable Constable Maxwell, and Captain Burton in quest of a mine of fabulous wealth in the Indian territory, and he supposes that Sir Roger has either been sacrificed by the Indians, or that he has succeeded in establishing his right to the mine, and prefers that to the trouble and annoyance attending the vindication of his claim to the Tichborne property.—*Star.*

THE EAST LONDON MUSEUM.—On Saturday Earl De Grey and Ripon and Mr. Forster, M.P., as Lord President and Vice-President of the Council for Education, received, at the hands of an influential deputation, the title-deeds of the site for the museum about to be built at the east of London. The land has been conveyed to the Science and Art Department by the promoters of the scheme under the powers of an Act of Parliament obtained for the purpose. It is about four-and-a-half acres in extent. The museum to be erected will be surrounded with buildings; roads will run to it from all directions,

and it will be accessible by railway. Mr. Samuel Morley, on behalf of the contributors of the fund, said they were anxious that education rather than amusement should be provided at the museum. Earl De Grey, in reply to the deputation, promised that in dealing with this subject the Government would be guided by the principles already laid down in the Minute made when Earl Granville and Mr. Bruce presided at the department of education.

MR. REVERDY JOHNSON was entertained on Friday night by the members of the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh at their banquet, previous to the opening of the annual exhibition. Returning thanks for his health having been drunk, Mr. Johnson said it was the interest of his own country, and he was sure that it was the interest of this country, that they should be friends; and that was not all. The cause of humanity, of free government, and of religious liberty demanded that they should be friends. There were few, he hoped, on either side of the Atlantic, who did not concur in that opinion, and of those who did not all he could say was, "May God Almighty have mercy upon them." If any persons present thought it possible they were to be involved in serious conflict with America, he begged them to lay their heads on their pillows that night, and go to sleep in the full consciousness that there was no such possibility.

ENORMOUS ELECTION OUTLAY.—The election for North Durham, says the *Newcastle Chronicle*, cost the candidates engaged in it the enormous sum of 27,000*l*. The larger moiety of this amount came out of the pocket of Mr. George Elliot. While the expenses of Sir Hedworth Williamson and Mr. Isaac Lowthian Bell amounted altogether to 11,793*l*. 11s. 8d., those of Mr. George Elliot were 15,302*l*. 10s. 7d. The Tory candidate, that is to say, expended 3,598*l*. 18s. 11d. more than both the Liberal candidates together. It used to be computed that the average cost of county votes was about 2*l*. each. But what was the cost of each of the votes polled for Mr. Elliott? The official return at the close of the poll for North Durham was as follows:—Elliott, 4,649; Williamson, 4,011; Bell, 3,822. Dividing the expenses incurred by Mr. Elliott among the 4,649 votes recorded in his favour, we find that the cost of each vote was within a fraction of 3*l*. 5s. 10d.! The sum spent by the Tory candidate would probably exceed the average weekly earnings of the whole of the electors who voted for him. The expenses of agents absorbed nearly one half of the entire sum squandered by Mr. Elliot; conveyances and railway fares cost 3,848*l*.; while 1,016*l*. is put down to the dubious account of "miscellaneous expenses." Printing, stationery, and advertising alone cost Mr. Elliot 1,445*l*.

THE CHARITIES OF THE METROPOLIS. — Dr. Hawksley's lectures on the voluntary charities of London have been the means of awakening public attention to this subject, and Mr. Hicks has drawn out a list of them, with the avowed object of showing that a large amount of the money subscribed must be misapplied. Leaving out of consideration all the City of London charities, the charities maintained by the city companies, and the charities which are strictly parochial, Mr. Hicks finds that the enormous sum of two millions sterling is annually subscribed on behalf of metropolitan charities. Of this amount considerably more than one-fourth goes for salaries, wages, and housekeeping expenses, and thus it appears that for each twenty shillings raised nearly six must be spent before the charity is applied. This is, in fact, the substance of Mr. Hicks's statement. He complains that there is an immense waste of power in the London charities, that they are utterly deficient in organisation, and that sometimes half-a-dozen charities are employed to effect what could be completed much better by one institution. Dr. Hawksley proposes, therefore, a general system of co-operation under official supervision, and at a time when it is beginning to be believed that our charities demoralise almost as much as they assist, he will do a public service by continuing the agitation on the subject.

LOCAL RATING.—DEPUTATION TO MR. GLADSTONE. —On Friday afternoon a deputation, consisting of representatives of Chambers of Agriculture, waited on the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, at his official residence, Downing-street, for the purpose of urging on him the desirability of recommending her Majesty to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the present system of local rating with a view to equalisation. Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., chairman of the Central Chamber of Agriculture, introduced the deputation. After receiving and hearing the deputation, Mr. Gladstone replied at some length, pointing out the magnitude of the subject, the questions raised by it being of a very complex nature. There was the question between the position of the towns and the country. Next came the most important question, the relation of the three kingdoms. When once the limits of local taxation were passed, there was not a single step taken in England which would not raise corresponding questions in Scotland and Ireland. There was also the relation between owner and occupier, and, lastly, the question between fixed property and moveable and invisible property generally. Mr. Gladstone then found by inquiry from the deputation that they thought a commission desirable, which should ascertain the facts and make a recommendation to Parliament. He then assured them that the subject should receive the most careful consideration; and, thanking him for his courtesy, the deputation withdrew.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Several new members of the House of Commons will have to take the oaths to-morrow on the re-assembling of Parliament. The fresh elections since the dissolution in November, 1868, have been as follows:—Wareham, Mr. Drax, returned in the room of Mr. Calcraft, deceased; South Derbyshire, Colonel Wilmot, returned in the room of Sir T. Gresley, deceased; Renfrewshire, Mr. H. A. Bruce, returned in the room of Captain Spiers, deceased; Greenwich, Mr. Gladstone re-elected; Pontefract, Mr. Childers re-elected; London, Mr. Goschen re-elected; University of London, Mr. Lowe re-elected; Southwark, Mr. Layard re-elected; Birmingham, Mr. Bright re-elected; Ripon, Lord J. Hay re-elected; Truro, the Hon. Captain Vivian re-elected; Bradford, Mr. W. E. Forster re-elected; Halifax, Mr. Stansfeld re-elected; Plymouth, Sir. R. P. Collier re-elected; Exeter, Sir J. D. Coleridge re-elected; and Oxford, Mr. Cardwell re-elected. The present House of Commons has thus been already renewed to the extent of 2.43 per cent. Vacancies now exist as follows:—London, by the death of Mr. C. Bell; Norwich, by the unseating of Sir H. Stracey; Bewdley, by the unseating of Sir R. Glass; Westbury, by the unseating of Mr. Phipps; Bradford, by the unseating of Mr. Ripley; Wexford, by the unseating of Mr. R. J. Devereux; Drogheda, by the unseating of Mr. B. Whitworth; and Dublin, by the unseating of Sir A. Guinness, There are still forty-eight election petitions to be disposed of, although some of these will probably be abandoned.

ALTERATION OF THE COURT DRESS.—Foreign critics will find in the *London Gazette* a new proof of our rapid advance towards democracy. The court dress is to be altered. Which of our sacred and time-honoured "institutions" will be the next to fall? In days when men are invited to wear trousers instead of breeches at court levees we may as well prepare for the worst. The abolition of breeches is a greater sign of progress than the destruction of the park railings. A man has only to put a narrow gold stripe down a pair of dark trousers, and his nether limbs will be "recognised" at her Majesty's palaces. Or, still better, the dress-coat, suggested some little time ago by the Prince of Wales, may be adopted, with "continuations" to match. The coat may be of black silk velvet, with those gilt or steel buttons which a few bold pioneers wear upon their dress-coats now, thereby imitating the costume of billiard-markers at clubs. But the court dress coat must have a gold embroidered collar, and it must be worn with "black silk velvet trousers." Here is a chance for the young bucks! Great effects will be produced at the next levee, though perhaps not greater than at the breakfasts last year, to which people went in black dress coats and lively coloured trousers. This alteration will not get over the difficulty raised by the well-known resolution of the American Senate. A black-velvet suit will be deemed the "livery of England," and as such not fit for a free man to put on. But at present we can all see that no serious embarrassment is likely to arise in this quarter.—*Pall Mall Gazette*. The *Daily News* regrets that the worst absurdities of Court dress, the cocked hat and sword, are still retained. They are protests, perhaps, against the invasion of a mere republican simplicity. It would be impossible to ask the Lord Chamberlain to recognise a wideawake or a chimney-pot; but now that he has invented something which may possibly lead to a reform of our evening dress, could he not strike out some new idea which would abolish cocked hats and chimney-pots together?

CONFERENCE ON CHARITIES AND PAUPERISM. — A conference convened by the Association for the Prevention of Pauperism and Crime in the Metropolis, and to which persons interested in the administration of charitable institutions had been specially invited, was held on Thursday at the rooms of the Society of Arts, under the presidency of the Bishop of London. Its object was to discuss the advantage and the practicability of united action on the part of charities and boards of guardians, and more particularly a scheme submitted by Dr. Hawksley at a meeting of the association held in December last, the salient points of which were the relief of the aged and infirm poor at their own homes, the employment of the able-bodied in remunerative occupations in workhouses, the bringing up of children found without proper guardianship in industrial schools, and the union of all charities, parochial or otherwise, in an agreement to attend only to applications authorised by a registration and inquiry office placed in every district, all such offices being in communication with one another, with the local guardians, and with a central office. The Bishop of London, in opening the proceedings, expressed regret at the absence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who had been expected to preside, but whose attendance had been required at a meeting of the Ritual Commission, and he mentioned that Lords Shaftesbury, Lichfield, and Stanley had sent letters stating their inability to be present. He proceeded to mention that there were in London above a thousand charities for different objects, with an aggregate annual income of about 4,000,000*l*. This gave an average to each of 4,000*l*. a-year. How best to administer this immense sum to effect the greatest amount of good without doing any harm was one of the most difficult problems with which the Social Science Association could deal. Discussion followed. Among those who took part in it were Dr. Hawksley, Mr. Tavener, Mr. G. B. Bidder, Mr. J. G. Wilkinson, Mr. Muir, the Rev. H. Cummins, Sir W. Frazer, the Rev. H. Solly, Mr. Thomas Hankey, the Rev. C. L. Butler, the Rev. H. M. Hart, and Mr. Bosanquet. There was a general expression of opinion in favour of obtaining, by legislative and social action, an organisation of the London charities, but no resolution was come to. The conference adjourned to Tuesday.

THE RURAL POPULATION.—In the *Contemporary Review* the Rev. Dr. C. Merivale gives the result of his local observations with reference to the physical condition of the rural population. He believes that they are fast deteriorating in physique, and he is anxious to learn what the experience of others teaches on the subject. People in his parish sometimes live to a great age, but generally speaking the powers of life seem to be weaker. Their style of living has certainly not improved. In the course of twenty years nothing has changed for the better, except that tea and sugar are cheaper. Meat is dearer, and flour "has hardly fallen at all on the average." Milk, butter, and vegetables are more difficult to get than ever. Rent is a little higher than it used to be. The people have weak constitutions, and their children are also sickly, and although medical science prevents so many deaths among infants as used to occur, yet the babes only grow up to be still more enfeebled than their parents, and "engender a third generation more degenerate than ever." The point thus suggested will be new to many persons—namely, that very little is ultimately gained by the preservation of weakly infants. No doubt it seems a very hard theory to advance, and Dr. Merivale half apologises for even mentioning it. "If I am obliged to say that, in my view, the saving and sustaining of weak and sickly life tends more to produce physical degeneracy among us than to avert it, I trust I shall not be supposed for a moment to discourage or deprecate the efforts," &c.—The Hon. Edward Stanhope, assistant commissioner in the Government inquiry into the condition of the agricultural labourer, has followed up his recent conference with the Shropshire farmers by the issue of a circular which indicates the points to which the attention of the commission has been specially directed, and upon which legislation may be expected. Mr. Stanhope requests each of his correspondents to state at what ages and at what times of the year boys and girls are employed upon his own farm; to what extent women are so employed; what are the hours of labour; and to what distances the women and children have to walk in order to reach their work. The agriculturist is further asked to state what means of education are provided for the agricultural labourer in his parish; whether they are fully appreciated; and what is the general condition of labourers' cottages. He is also invited to give his opinion as to the desirability of placing any restriction upon the age at which the boys should be permitted to work on the land; and to say, "whether it is desirable to place any restrictions upon the employment of females, especially of the young, in agriculture."

ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE FOR INFANTS. — On Thursday evening last there was a devotional meeting at the above institution, Hornsey-rise, to seek the Divine blessing upon the work so happily begun, and upon the infants and household who had for the first day occupied their new homes. In the morning of that day the last portion of the infants were admitted, with the exception of four who are unwell, and still out on that account. At five o'clock tea and coffee was served in the board-room to about sixty ladies and gentlemen. After visiting the cottages, the company assembled (in number about 160) in the dining-hall. The elder infants were arranged on their platform, and the service of the evening commenced by the Rev. Mark Wilks giving out the hymn, "Come let us join our cheerful songs." He was then called upon by the Vicar of Crouch-end, the Rev. W. Fleming, to pray. The chairman then read a portion of Scripture and gave a short address founded upon the words of our Lord, "Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, &c." This portion concluded, he spoke of the excellent object of the charity, the admirable arrangements made for the comfort and happiness of the infants and their attendants, and the pleasure he and his reverend friend and brother, the Rev. R. Gurney, of St. Mary's, felt in being associated with it. This meeting for prayer he considered much more important than that splendid gathering when noble lords and ladies assembled on that same spot in 1867, to lay the foundation-stone of the building. A short address was given by Mr. W. N. Wortley, a member of the committee, and another by the Rev. C. Gilbert, when the infants sang one of their hymns very prettily and retired. Another hymn (composed for the occasion) was sung, when the chairman offered prayer. The next speaker was Mr. Soul, the hon. secretary, who gave a few facts on the encouragement they had received—the presents which had reached them of all sorts of furniture—clocks, toys, pictures from the Religious Tract Society and the Christian Knowledge Society; Bibles from the Bible Society; and mentioned that the only discouragement was want of money, with which to complete their engagements at the present time; but he expressed a strong conviction that, having permitted them to begin and carry on the good work, the Lord will send the means to extricate them from their further difficulties, and to provide for the future. The meeting concluded by singing the evening hymn, and the chairman pronouncing the benediction. To those who may desire to see the orphanage, it may be mentioned that it is situated near the Crouch-end station of the Great Northern Railway, and is at Hornsey-rise, near to which the Favourite omnibuses stop, and visitors will be admitted on presenting their cards any Wednesday, which will be the open day for this purpose. We need not say how thankful the committee will be to receive contributions at 56, Ludgate-hill, where Mr. Soul is to be found daily.

The following characteristic advertisement appears in a New York paper:—"If the party who took a fancy to my overcoat was influenced by the inclemency of the weather, all right; but if by commercial considerations, I am ready to negotiate for its return." Here follows the address.

Literature.

*LORD CAMPBELL'S LIVES OF LYNDHURST AND BROUGHAM.**

Of the portraits which Miss Martineau has given us in her republished "Biographical "Sketches," there is hardly one that is to us less attractive than that of Lord Chancellor Campbell. A man of little genius and still less heart, who devoted himself simply to the art of "getting on," and was not very particular as to the means which he adopted to secure his object, who contrived on two separate occasions to shelve two old associates for the purpose of making a vacancy for himself, we find little that is admirable in his character and career. He was indeed loyal to the Whigs, but it may be questioned whether his loyalty was as serviceable to his party as to himself, or whether any services he ever rendered were adequate compensation for the injury done to the party by his want of prudence in relation to the Chartist movement in 1839, or by the discredit inflicted on them in his appointment as Chancellor for Ireland,—by the intrigues by which Lord Denman was induced to resign, in order to enable him to become Lord Chief Justice, and by the elevation of his wife to the peerage as Lady Stratheden. But however unfavourable an estimate anyone may have formed of Lord Campbell previously, it will be more than confirmed by the concluding volume of the "Lives of the Chancellors." His former volumes were subjected to searching criticisms by Sir H. Nicolas, who exposed their want of historical accuracy in some important particulars and established, says Miss Martineau, "a case of malversation of materials "which will not easily be forgotten." But though even in them there was a tendency to depreciate eminent reputations and too readily to accept any bit of scandal however slight the foundation on which it might rest, this spirit has never been so strongly manifested as in the volume which contains the lives of his contemporaries. They were his contemporaries, and he fancied himself their rival—at all events they were frequently thrown into collision—and he thought himself not unfit to measure swords with them. If at any time he felt that they had an advantage over him, he is able now to redress the balance. He forgot that his readers, when they got his book, would form from it their judgment not only of the subjects, but of the writer, and we are inclined to think that most of them will agree that if he was inferior to them during their life-time he has not succeeded in improving his position yet. He appears in his own pages as a keen, shrewd lawyer, whose fidelity to the Whigs was certainly not the result of any broad views or strong Liberal sympathies (witness his miserable opposition to the life peerage of Lord Wensleydale, of which he writes here in a strain that proves how very shallow his Liberalism was); who took a most exaggerated view of his own abilities and achievements, and found it very hard to forgive any one who wounded his self-love; and who had no hesitation in repeating the most wretched gossip, if it told to the disadvantage of one who had offended him. Sometimes we have thought that he hardly perceived himself the full implication of some of his own innuendoes; that he had unhappily contracted a habit of detraction from which he could not easily free himself; and that had he lived to read the criticisms his book has provoked, he would have been not a little surprised. Perhaps it is the tendency of a devotion to legal pursuits to foster the captious cavilling spirit of which we have here so many illustrations, but, on the other hand, we might have hoped that among the members of a distinguished profession there would have been more nobility of feeling, and more disposition to judge even rivals kindly than Lord Campbell has shown.

Of Lord Lyndhurst we never entertained a very favourable opinion, and are certainly not at all predisposed to do battle on his behalf. He lived to extreme age, and the freshness and vigour of intellect which characterised him to the last, surrounded his closing days with a halo of interest which had not belonged to any previous period of his career. His speeches on two or three great questions were pre-eminently "English" in tone and opinion, they accorded with the prevalent sentiment of the past, and in the admiration of the pluck, the unfailing resources, the marvellous grasp of his subject, the singular lucidity of the reasoning of the "old man eloquent," we forget some of the offences of his earlier days. But a calm review of his course does not justify our high estimate of a man who did his best to oppose the progress of the popular cause, and who had as little genuine sympathy with liberty or progress as any statesman of his generation. We feel, however, that Lord Campbell's unfair representations are calculated only to create a feeling in his favour, for with all his faults he was not as he is here exhibited, and the reaction which this overdrawn style of portrait is likely to produce is strengthened by the fact that the artist has to confess that on several occasions he experienced great personal kindness at the hands of the very man whom he has thus maligned. The great charge which Lord Campbell is anxious to fasten upon him is that of political apostasy, but it rests entirely on some vagaries of youth when it is possible that Copley, like many others, may have indulged aspirations and feelings in favour of Republicanism, and sometimes talked in a loose and random style, of which afterwards he was ashamed. Granting Lord Campbell's representations to be correct, there can be no doubt that his views underwent a considerable revolution when, by the favour of Lord Liverpool, he was brought into Parliament, and it is certain that he was regarded by many of his contemporaries as a renegade. We have an account of a striking scene in the House of Lords during the debates on the Reform Bill of which Lord Campbell was witness, which, if his recollection of Lord Denman's words be accurate, would certainly show that though Lord Lyndhurst might take credit for having abstained from connection with any political party or from the prominent advocacy of any political principles prior to his entering Parliament, yet that he had talked much more freely than he was willing to confess, and had little warrant for the lofty ground which he took when his consistency was assailed. The scene took place immediately after Lord Lyndhurst's speech on the second reading of the bill, in which he had flung out wholesale charges of inconsistency against the Liberal leaders in both Houses, and thus provoked the retort under which he evidently winced:—

"Earl Grey, in an admirable reply, touched very cuttingly on Lord Lyndhurst's charges of inconsistency, taunted him with his sudden conversion to Catholic emancipation, and hinted very intelligibly at his former democratic opinions. When he had concluded, a memorable scene took place, which I myself witnessed, standing on the steps of the throne.

"Lord Lyndhurst: 'The noble earl has been pleased in the course of his speech to allude to me, and he seemed to consider that at one period of my life I entertained opinions opposed to those I now avow and act upon. But, if the noble earl entertains any such impression, I beg to assure him that he is grossly misinformed and utterly mistaken.'

"Earl Grey: 'My Lords, I did understand that the noble and learned lord at one period of his life entertained opinions favourable to the consideration of the question of parliamentary reform.'

"Lord Lyndhurst: 'NEVER!'

"Lord Denman, who had gone the circuit with Lyndhurst, and full well knew what those opinions had been, was then standing by me. Shaking his fist in a manner which made me afraid that he would draw upon himself the notice of the House, he exclaimed, 'Villain! lying villain!' But, in reality, what the noble and learned Lord said was literally true, for at the period of his life alluded to he was not favourable to Parliamentary reform, but wished Parliament to be abolished, that a National Convention might be established in its place."

In judging of such a statement, it is necessary to bear in mind the heated state of feeling that prevailed at the time, and under which both Lord Grey and Lord Denman spoke. The fiercest excitement of our own days was calmness itself as compared with the fury that then raged, and probably Lord Denman himself would have been the first to deprecate the use here made of his passionate expression. When, indeed, we remember what we have seen in our day, how the speeches of one Session have been contradicted by the deeds of the next, how the Treasury Benches have been stormed under a banner which has been abandoned as soon as the desired object has been secured, how a Ministry have quietly ignored the tactics they adopted in opposition, and deceived the hopes of those by whom they were trusted, we confess it seems hard to press too severely upon a man for words spoken in the heat and rashness of youth. In debate, when Lord Lyndhurst was taunting his opponents with their conversion, the reply was natural enough; but it is ungenerous and unfair to insist upon it so strongly in a biography which is intended to go down to posterity. For ourselves, we agree with Miss Martineau, who says, "He was no "political renegade. He was born before the "separation of the American Colonies, and never "had the least tendency to republicanism in "him. He was Tory to the heart's core. His "being born so far from the focus of royalty "was a mistake of Nature, which she rectified "by bringing him at last to be the keeper of "the King's conscience in that mother-country "to which his family clung with true Royalist "zeal."

If, therefore, there had been nothing more to allege against him than that he followed out the natural bent of his mind and habits of thought, regardless of expressions of opinion of a contrary tendency into which he had before been betrayed, we should not have attached any great importance to the charge. But there is an element of crookedness and intrigue in the whole of Lord Lyndhurst's political career which greatly lowers the estimate we might otherwise have formed of him. The difficulty in judging of such a biography as that which we have here is that so many of the statements rest upon the author's own recollection, and that every page of the memoir indicates how strong the bias under which he has written. The miserable bits of scandal, such as that relative to his hero having employed sheriffs' officers dressed up in livery to wait at his banquets, and the still more unjustifiable insinuations relative to the first Lady Lyndhurst, may be at once dismissed as resting on no evidence, and proving nothing but the pettiness of the man who has not thought it inconsistent with his own dignity or with common fairness to those of whom he writes to give them a permanent record. In dismissing them, however, we must not forget that the man who has raked up all this low gossip of the club, and gathered it into his book, after his victory at the Edinburgh election in 1841, received the congratulations of the very man whom he here holds up to contempt, who told him in a very generous spirit that "private friendship was more powerful than "party feeling," and gave him the nosegay which had been prepared for himself as Lord Chancellor, as a pledge of peace; that he was indebted to him for an offer of a Puisne Judgeship at a time when, owing to the general collapse of the Whig party, it seemed improbable that he would obtain anything higher; that on one important occasion at least, Lord Lyndhurst came to the help of his rival when assailed; that, notwithstanding some brushes between them, the very narrative before us proves to us that he must have died in the belief that they were on terms of peace, not to say friendship. Our difficulty, however, is not with these, but with tales of political intrigue for which Lord Campbell vouches, but for which no evidence is produced. Thus, for example, the stories as to the relations between Sir Robert Peel and his powerful Chancellor, the intrigues of the latter against the head of the Cabinet to which he belonged, the indifference which Sir Robert, in his turn, carried so far that he is said to have sat at a Cabinet meeting reading a newspaper while the Chancellor was stating his reasons in opposition to some proposal of his chief, are of a character that renders it impossible for us to pronounce upon. Unfortunately, our author shows everywhere the influence of strong personal feeling. He never gives credit for a good motive where it is possible to impute a bad one. He never suffers any lingering kindly sentiment to restrain him from throwing out insinuations of the most damaging nature, and even when he is compelled to indicate his doubt as to some of the stories he retails, he does not hesitate to insert them and leave them to produce what impression they may. That Lord Lyndhurst did not allow principles to stand in the way of his political advancement, that his change of attitude on the Catholic question was rather remarkable even in that time of change, that he sought to defeat the Reform Bill by manœuvres which were not more discreditable to his political morality than to his sagacity, that he was never a very straightforward statesman, and that at heart he was a Tory of the most decided school, we do not doubt. But after all that can be said against him, he was worthy of better treatment than he has received from Lord Campbell.

The volume, as may be supposed, is rich in interesting reminiscences of the lengthened period over which the life of Lord Lyndhurst extended. The idea of writing a biography while the man was yet living, and reserving its completion to his death, was somewhat singular, and is the more striking from the fact that the biographer died, and that the memoir appears as a posthumous work. But it has had the effect of securing more vividness for the narrative. Lord Campbell has the advantage of telling of things in relation to many of which he might say "*quorum pars magna fui*," and when prejudice does not interfere with his accuracy his records are instructive and interesting. The contrast between the present times and those of our youth as to the bitterness of political warfare appears in nothing more than in the shameful treatment the Queen experienced on her accession, from the party who boast of special loyalty.

"William IV. was now dying, and the Tories sanguinely looked forward to the commencement of a new reign. The power of the Crown in choosing Ministers has been so much reduced that the Sovereign of Eng-

* *Lives of Lord Chancellors Lyndhurst and Brougham.* By JOHN Lord CAMPBELL. Murray.

land may be aptly compared to the marker in a billiard-room, who looks on, and declares which competitor has won the game. Still, on rare occasions, when parties are nearly balanced, the royal will for a time prevails. The Whigs, retaining a considerable majority in the House of Commons, had, by resisting the unreasonable zeal of the ultra-Radicals for reforms inconsistent with our balanced constitution, lost popularity, and now a strong Government might have been formed under Sir Robert Peel, who would have coerced the ultra-Tories led by Lord Lyndhurst. The Princess Victoria had cautiously abstained from indicating any political bias, and the Tories, hoping that she would prove to be theirs, extravagantly praised her nascent virtues. Terrible was their disappointment when it was announced that Lord Melbourne was to continue Prime Minister; and that, moreover, personally she felt a filial regard for him which, now that she was on the throne, she took no pains to conceal. A storm of vilification arose against her which was very discreditable to the Tory party. The practice was to contrast her invidiously with Adelaide, the Queen Dowager, and at public dinners to receive the Queen's health with solemn silence, while the succeeding toast of the Queen Dowager was the signal for long-continued cheers. Some writers went so far as to praise the Salic law, by which females are excluded from the throne, pointing out the happiness we should have enjoyed under the rule of the Duke of Cumberland, now King of Hanover, but consoling the nation by the assurance that his line would soon succeed."

The following is a pleasant sketch of a festive gathering of political opponents:—

"In 1847 I had the honour of entertaining him at a dinner which I gave as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and which made a considerable noise at the time. Lord Stanley had brought forward a charge against me in the House of Lords about the formation of the Council of the Duchy, and this gave rise to a good deal of angry as well as jocular discussion. To make matters smooth, there being no real hostility intended on either side, I asked if he had any objection to meet the Council of the Duchy at dinner at Strathe den House; to which he very good-humouredly assented. I invited Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Brougham, Lord Melbourne, Lord John Russell, Lord Clarendon, Lord Lincoln, Sir James Graham, and Edward Ellice, to assist. And a most jovial day we had of it. Strange to say, Lyndhurst declared that although he had abused Lord John so long and plotted so much against him, now was the first time that he ever dined in his company. At this 'Love-feast,' Whig and Tory, Protectionist and Free-trader, occupant of office and expectant of office—all drank wine with each other, and instead of politics being banished, the doctrines and faults of all parties were freely made the subject of ridiculous comment. This licence of talk was highly to Lyndhurst's taste, and he was so delighted and genial, that in going away with Brougham he left a message for me with my butler that 'he hoped the dinner would be annual while his Lordship remained Chancellor of the Duchy.'"

The notice of Lord Brougham's life we must reserve for another article.

*DEAN ALFORD'S ESSAYS AND ADDRESSES.**

We quite endorse the judgment of those friends of Dean Alford who suggested the republication of the series of papers included in this volume. One or two of them—the Address at Cheshunt College and the essays on "The "Union of Christendom and "The Church of "the Future," we had read more than once before, but the other papers will be as new to most readers as they are to us. They are all full of suggestive thought and wise counsel. They are the expressions of one of the most highly cultured Christian minds of the present generation, of a mind, therefore, whose charity never faileth—in which respect Dean Alford notably differs from the one-sided culture of a man like Mr. Matthew Arnold. In the exact position which he has chosen to take with respect to the members of other religious bodies, Dean Alford often reminds us of Tillotson, a great deal of whose spirit and temper, and especially his candour, he possesses. If he should successfully discharge the work of a Tillotson in our day and generation he will be worthy of even higher honour than that great and charitable prelate. Tillotson failed in giving effect to his desires. The times were against him, and especially the clergy were against him. We can imagine, however, that Dean Alford may live to see some at least of his expectations realised both in spirit and in form.

Three of the papers in this work relate to the education and work of the clergy. Two of these were read before Church Congresses, and the other at the Cheshunt anniversary. They will be found of almost equal value to every section of the Christian community. We say "almost," because some of the defects which Dean Alford charges upon the preaching of the clergy are not commonly found amongst Dissenters. Perhaps we have other defects—no doubt, indeed, we have—but they are not precisely those indicated by the author. As regards, however, general suggestions concerning the education of a race of cultured and successful preachers, and the style and matter of a sermon, there is much in the first two essays which deserves to be well considered by all those who have the training of men for the Christian ministry. Amongst other things, it is suggested that "a partial breaking "down" of the present formality of sermons would vastly increase their interest and power. It is proposed that there might be sermons without texts, and sermons with their texts placed where they would sometimes naturally come—at the middle, or anywhere, in the address. This is a minor, but by no means valueless, hint. More important are the remarks on the sincerity of preachers and preaching. Every one will remember sermons which have suggested to himself something like the train of thought in which Dean Alford indulges in the following remarks:—

"Much of the failure of preaching in our days is owing to men not feeling, or not appearing to feel, what they say. A clergyman's ordinary life is known as a matter of fact; his conversation is patent to all. What he believes, what he feels, on a hundred subjects, his friends and acquaintance know well. But for two half-hours in the week he stands and says things wholly different from his sayings at any other time. His thoughts and feelings seem to belong to a different being. They may be good and admirable; well expressed and delivered. But who cares for sermons which are not reflected in the life? I am not referring now to the graver fault—a man's want of practice of his own preaching—but to the almost equally fatal one, his want of sympathy with it, his acting two men—one out of the pulpit and one in it. We must not always judge this harshly as regards the preacher himself. It is not in all cases due to the want of personal religion. I have known it to be so with some of the deepest and most earnest personal Christians—men who would wear themselves out for their flocks, and for the love of Him who sent them. It is more the fault of the system than of the men. There is a divergence between the formal language and thought of the pulpit, and the realities of the life within and without. The force of habit has rendered us different men when preaching and when not preaching. We hear of men overflowing with zeal and love, but they are miserable preachers, and for this reason."

The Dean partly attributes this fault to the idea that a sermon should be expressed in conventional phrases and forms of thought, and therefore that all free expressions of feelings and reference to topics of present interest are out of place. Other causes are mentioned, but not the chief one—chief, that is to say, as it seems to us. This unreality is most common with men who, especially when they are in the pulpit, think of themselves not as men but as priests. They belong to a different order from those whom they address; how, in such a case, can their preaching appear to be real?

An address which we have now read for the first time, has, however, more deeply interested us than those on ministerial culture. It is entitled the "Christian Conscience," and was delivered in Glasgow in 1867. We don't believe a bit in the Dean's psychological theories, but although he is a man, like all others who touch such questions, who would be very hard to convince of the smallest error, we do think that we could show him how, several times, he confounds will with inclination, and therefore writes, as it seems to us, some nonsense upon this subject. But there is a grand and lofty morality in this address, upon which we far rather prefer to dwell. It is the trumpet voice of a Christian prophet to the men and the Churches of the nineteenth century. What a Christian conscience should be, what it should do in the present time, and what it should condemn amongst the present characteristics of private and public life, is its burden. Not because we have less appreciation of the words which are uttered respecting other relations of life, nor because of our own special ecclesiastical proclivities, but to give the reader the best example of the genuineness of ring which there is all through this admirable address, do we single out the Dean's remarks upon the conscience of the Established Church as respects other Churches:—

"We have in England one form of Church established, and in connection with the State. We have many other forms existing, as voluntarily associated bodies—existing by recognised right of the Christian conscience. This recognition has, historically, not been arrived at without considerable difficulty, and a struggle which has lasted for ages. Though a legitimate and necessary corollary from the principles of the Reformation, it was not seen to be such by the dominant party, till the course of Providence proved to be too strong for the self-will of men. We began by persecuting in order to enforce uniformity; we advanced to a meagre and ungracious toleration; and, notwithstanding that our Nonconforming brethren have now, thank God, acquired equality of civil rights, at this point of ungracious toleration we, for the most part, remain still. The State has been more recognisant of, more loyal to the Christian conscience than the Church, which ought to have been its most zealous and watchful guardian. Nothing is more strongly impressed on my mind, when I look over the religious state of England, than that we, who are members of her Established Church, have need to face the whole important question of our relations to Nonconformists, with a view to a re-adjustment, in the light of the Christian conscience, of our words and acts respecting them. There is a very wide basis of doctrine, there is a still wider basis of Christian morality, on which we are absolutely as one. As far as those bases extend, our aim is identical. We may not be able to work together; our instruments may be different; our tastes may be incompatible. Allow the utmost force to these considerations; and the utmost force also to the consideration, that our very differences are themselves points of conscience, and that we are bound to stand up for them, and not to merge nor compromise them. Still, allowing all this, it seems to me that there is no justification for the present alienation of affection, the present virtual suspension of intercourse, the present depreciatory tone and manner, which prevail on the part of English Churchmen towards Dissenters, and towards Churches which differ from ourselves in organisation. . . . There lies at the root of all this arrogance a most mischievous, but, I grieve to say, a widely spread fallacy. We of the Church of England have absolutely no right to assume our own form of church government to be the only lawful one, and to look askance upon other forms, whether in England or elsewhere. We have had this right, because we distinctly proclaim, as to all things required of necessity to be believed, an appeal to Holy Scripture; and in Scripture as much, or as little, is found for one form as for another. If depreciation of Nonconformists is excused on the ground of our possessing superior means of education and endowment, then the plea itself involves a violation of the dictates of the Christian conscience; for, if the fact be as stated, it is mainly owing to our having excluded our brethren from the national advantages which we ourselves possess; and it is high time that such exclusion should come to an end."

A very beautiful sermon on "Charity, the End "of the Commandment," preached at Westminster Abbey last summer, and following the essay on the "Union of Christendom," is in full harmony with the spirit of this quotation. The Dean takes the ground of Locke, in that philosopher's First Letter on Toleration. He says, "If the end of the commandment is love, we of "this Church, my brethren, have somehow "missed the path, and are going altogether "astray from it." But as he indicates, at the close of the last paper in this volume, the finding of the path will "begin with the fact of disestab-"lishment." We heartily thank the Dean for this volume. No: we are not merely thankful, we are grateful to him for publishing it. But as we look at this and some works of a similar form which have recently been published, we ask ourselves, Whither will these things tend?

* *Essays and Addresses, chiefly on Church Subjects.* By HENRY ALFORD, D.D., Dean of Canterbury. Strahans.

BRIEF NOTICES.

Poems and Ballads. By JANET HAMILTON. With Introductory Papers by the Rev. GEORGE GILFILLAN and the Rev. ALEXANDER WALLACE, D.D. (Glasgow: James Maclehose.) Mrs. Hamilton is a blind old woman, who has never known any lot more comfortable than one of poverty and hard work. She owes little more of her education than the power to read to any one but herself; God gave her, she says, "a good tack (gift) of nat'ral "grammar," which she improved by the constant reading of Shakspeare. She has many of the excellencies of the self-educated, vigour and directness of thought, simplicity of style, love of freedom, and scorn of the paltry and hesitating. She has less than most of them of egotism; a little garrulous, as an old woman may well be, her garrulity is never offensive. Her verses show a good eye for natural objects and for character, kindly sympathy, and a sense of humour. They are also in good taste, often elegant. Let our readers take these verses as examples of an old Scotch woman's poetic faculty.

"The primrose in the dell is blowing;
Sister flowerets, fresh and glowing,
Grace the brooklet's brink, clear glowing
Through the dingle green.
To the tassel'd hazel bushes
Now resort the amorous thrushes;
The water coot among the rushes,
Seeks her brood to screen.

Clouds alternate, smiling, weeping,
O'er the April skies are sweeping;
Dancing streams are gaily leaping
To the pools below.
Thousand small bright eyes are twinkling
Through the leaves, where thrilling, tinkling
Song of wild birds gushes, trinkling
In melodious flow."

It is no common delicacy of perception, no common feeling for natural tenderness and grace, which has inspired these lines.

Mirelle, a Pastoral Epic of Provence. From the Provencal of F. Mistral. Translated by H. CRICHTON. (London: Macmillan and Co.) We do not suppose that "Mirelle" will become popular; readers whose only knowledge of books is gained from the circulating library, and whose taste is formed by current gossip, will find it wholly outside their range. But those who wish to increase their acquaintance with the literature of other nations will read this poem with interest, and any lover of simple poetry will find pleasure in it. The scenery, the people, and the customs of Provence are here depicted for us by a true poet of their own. These are so far removed from our daily habits as to give the verse the charm of quaintness. The style and story are both antique in some of their characteristics; but there is nothing affected or worn-out in this poem. The persons depicted are real, the sentiments are natural, and the emotionalism is neither shallow nor overstrained. We thank Mr. Crichton for this good translation of a poem that deserves to be known by all students of literature and friends of old-world simplicity in story-telling.

Life of the Rev. John Milne, M.A., of Perth. By HORATIUS BONAR, D.D. (London: Jas. Nisbet and

Co.) Mr. Milne was the minister first of St. Leonard's, and afterwards of Free St. Leonard's Church, Perth. He began his ministry about the time of the Evangelistic labours in Scotland of the Rev. W. C. Burns, with whom, as also with the Rev. R. M. McCheyne, he was much in sympathy and association. These early revival labours and experiences determined the character of Mr. Milne's whole ministry. Throughout this volume, we are struck with the continued self-introspection of his piety, the manipulation to which he was ever subjecting his feelings, as one might meddle with the works of a delicately-finished watch. He sought to live in perpetual spiritual excitement, and to excite others equally with himself. We have read this memoir with very mingled feelings. It is impossible not to admire Mr. Milne's devotedness and high-toned sincerity. It would have been impossible to know him and not to love him. But the craving for spiritual excitement, the efforts made to increase emotional sensitiveness and to work upon it, are very painful to mark. The story of Mr. Milne's death-bed is distressing, and to a large extent appears spiritually unreal, because of this identification of faith and feeling. Dr. Bonar has perhaps increased this impression of Mr. Milne's life by giving us only this aspect of his character. The book would be much improved by being reduced to one-eighth of its present size. We read letters, and diaries, and notes, and extracts, without making any headway. All are of exactly the same kind. We say of this as of some other biographies; we are sure we should have loved the man better than we like his memoir.

The Life of Columbus, the Discoverer of America. Chiefly by ARTHUR HELPS. (London: Bell and Daldy.) This book, like the "Life of Las Casas," is for the most part taken from Mr. Helps's "History of the Spanish Conquest in America." Mr. Herbert Preston Thomas has helped to prepare it for the press in this form, and has by his skill and research, added considerably to Mr. Helps's original materials. The book is thoroughly interesting; though the main incidents of the life of Columbus are so well known, persons who begin this narrative will continue it to the close. Mr. Helps's clear style is well fitted for historical narration; the occasional reflections are judicious, and sometimes evince the wise judgment of a man well acquainted with affairs, and able to reason on them. It is needless to add that the tone of the book is pure and high-minded; the author's name is the guarantee of that. Mr. Helps's purpose, in his larger book, to illustrate the growth and history of slavery and the slave-trade, gives a special character to this volume. The oppressions of the aborigines in the West Indies are vigorously described; while at the same time full justice is due to the noble enthusiasm and religiousness of Columbus.

Hyrda. By ROBERT B. HOLT, Author of "Kynwith," &c. (London: Longmans, Green, Reader, and Dyer.) Mr. Holt has chosen an excellent theme for a poem; and he has shown himself able to develope it in musical verse. His poem is pure in taste and picturesque in its setting. Its great defect is in grip. The reader has to help Mr. Holt's description by an effort of his own imagination; his imagination is not seized by the author's muse. We have not here lines that compel the reader's apprehension and live in his memory, but Mr. Holt has poetic faculty, and the flow of his verse is pleasing.

The Life to which we are Called. Seven Plain, Practical Sermons, preached at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, in 1866-67, and at Lea Marston, by the Rev. L. TUTTIETT, Perpetual Curate of Lea Marston, author of "Germs of Thought on the Sunday Services," &c., &c. (Wells, Gardner, and Co., Paternoster-row.) We do not mean to pay a very high compliment, nor yet, we trust, are we uncharitable, when we say these sermons seem to us considerably above the average merit of those generally preached by clergymen of the Established Church. They are even considerably better than many which, from time to time, appear from that source in print. Not too long, and only seven in number, they both convey an impression of great sincerity and earnestness, and call into play a certain amount of fancy and rhetorical skill. The reader's attention is not taxed too severely, nor his intellectual horizon in any startling degree widened. A sentence in one discourse (the second) points apparently to the conclusion that the author is not a Ritualist. "Mark, again, that feverish "craving after new excitements of external worship and "ceremonial developments, which our fathers rejected "as unwholesome, which our spiritual rulers generally "forbid as inexpedient, which the majority of our "brethren of the Anglican community regard with "aversion and alarm." But we feel perplexed to know how far we are to suppose ourselves invited to modify or suspend our judgment on the precise school to which Mr. Tuttiett wishes to be referred, when we find the following introductory note prefixed to the volume:—"I think it right to take this opportunity of stating that "the second sermon of this volume was preached at St. "Paul's before I had read Mr. Liddell's 'Scriptural "'Rationale of Eucharistic Vestments,' or clearly under-"stood his views on "Ceremonial Developments.'"

What is Religion? A Tract for the Times. By THOMAS BREVIOR. Author of "The Two Worlds," "Confessions of a Truth Seeker," &c. (Progressive Library, 1, Camberwell-road, S.) There would perhaps have been nothing incongruous with an unmixed enjoyment of the ability and thoughtfulness which appear in this short treatise, had the author restricted himself to answering the question proposed in his title-page. But on that condition, his work would probably not have been written at all. It appears to have been suggested by a wish to vindicate the doctrines which are known at present under the name of "Spiritualism," and at the same time to deprecate and rebuke some of the views which many Spiritualists entertain. The undertaking is not a hopeful one. Many of the remarks on the nature of religion, and on Christianity as its highest and only perfect and complete type, are extremely just, as well as clear and impressive. But the writer fails to show, even if it were admitted, which we do not admit, that the fact of real intercourse with departed spirits has been proved, that any of the alleged communications from the invisible world are of a kind to command moral reverence, or marked by qualities calculated to make any human creature wiser or better. That Spiritualism has any necessary tendency to promote religious faith, we were never inclined to believe, nor does this seem to us at all more likely, when we find one of its most sensible advocates feeling it necessary to express himself as follows:—"And here, I hope I may add without offence, "that in my humble judgment nothing can more un-"fairly present Spiritualism, more prejudice its con-"sideration and its just claims, or more deeply pain "and tend to alienate many of its best friends than the "inveterate—I had almost said rancorous—hostility to "religion, unhappily manifested among Spiritualists in "some quarters."

Nichol's Series of Commentaries. SAMUEL SMITH on Psalm i.; THOMAS PIERSON on Psalms xxvii., lxxxiv., lxxxv., and lxxxvii.; and WILLIAM GOUGE on Psalm cxvi. (Edinburgh: James Nichol. London: James Nisbet and Co.) This is one out of the three volumes of the fourth year's issue of Nichol's Quarto Series of Commentaries. Its contents, if not distinguished by any great originality, or all alike of equal merit, are all marked by the characteristic features of the period of Puritan fervour, and of painstaking verbal and logical analysis of Holy Scripture sentence by sentence, and word by word. The interest of the volume is greatly enhanced by Mr. Grosart's careful and affectionate biographical sketches of two out of the three divines who are here represented by a sample of the writings of each. Of the third, Dr. Gouge, a memoir was given in a preceding volume. His commentary on Psalm cxvi. in the present collection, seems to have been designed as an equivalent for the Te Deum, which another party in the Church might at a later day have ordered to be sung, and singularly enough, besides several undeniable causes for thankfulness and praise which have been enumerated in their order, is added the birth of the prince who was afterwards to be only too well known in English history as Charles the Second: "We, in our "days, have such a blessing conferred upon us as hath "not fallen out in England fourscore and thirteen years "before, which is the birth of a prince heir to the "crown. Blessed in this respect be the nine-and-"twentieth day of May, 1630. On that day was Prince "Charles born."

Miscellaneous.

THE SATURDAY HALF-HOLIDAY.—Some important modifications of the Factory and Workshops' Regulation Acts have just been gazetted by Mr. Redgrave, the Inspector of Factories. They refer to the Saturday half-holiday, and they will afford much relief to those engaged in many branches of manufacture in the metropolis. It is now legal to substitute another day than Saturday on which the weekly half-holiday may be granted in all factories and workshops connected with a retail business in which articles of wearing apparel are made, or which may be situated in towns on which the market-day is Saturday. When some other day is thus substituted for Saturday it is not necessary that all the persons employed should have the half-holiday on the same day—it may be granted to some on Saturday, and to others on another day. The effect of these modifications will be to afford all milliners, dressmakers, and others engaged in making wearing apparel, an opportunity of completing an order which may been given to them late in the week. By giving any portion of their workpeople notice that they will have their half-holiday on another day during the following week, they may employ them on the Saturday the same length of time that the Act authorises them so to do on any of the first five working days in the week. To many engaged in business in the metropolis, and to whom orders are frequently sent from necessity on short notice, these relaxations will be felt as a great boon.

DEATH OF DR. EPPS.—A wide circle of friends and the public will learn with regret of the death of this well-known and highly-esteemed gentleman, which took place at his residence in Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury, on Friday last, in the sixty-fourth year of his age. The son of an active and robust Reformer of a past generation, Dr. Epps inherited much of the energy and public spirit of his father, and it can be safely said that no public movement for the advancement of religious, political, or commercial freedom has, during the last forty years, been inaugurated in England without his most cordial sympathy and assistance. His love of religious equality brought him early in life into active co-operation with the eminent Reformers of his day in procuring Catholic emancipation and the repeal of the Test Acts, in resistance to Church-rates, and the relief of Nonconformists. A disciple of Major Cartwright, he associated himself with Francis Place, W. J. Fox, Burdett, and the men of 1832 in the council of the political unions in London, in agitating for the Reform Bill. He was an active member of the Anti-Corn-Law League, and with Campbell, Lord Dudley Stuart, Mazzini, and others, joined organisations in favour of the Polish, Italian, Hungarian, and American nationalities. Dr. Epps was also a liberal and zealous supporter of the Liberation Society, and communications from him relative to questions of religious freedom, showing his great vigilance and his attachment to freedom, have frequently, for many years, appeared in the columns of this journal. As a homœopathic practitioner, Dr. Epps wrote many works that are held in high estimation among the friends of that theory of medicine. He had long been afflicted with asthma, which, with an attack of paralysis of the brain, terminated his laborious and useful life. His remains will be interred in the cemetery at Kensal-green, at noon, on Friday next.

SOUTH LONDON WORKING CLASSES' INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.—On Friday night an aggregate meeting of the exhibitors in the above was held in the Lambeth Baths to choose the adjudicators, the space and vigilance committees, and to transact other business. At the request of the committee the Rev. G. M. Murphy occupied the chair, and explained the nature and importance of the gathering. After an interesting and animated discussion the following gentlemen were chosen as adjudicators in the first or artistic department—Sir M. D. Wyatt, F.S.A., Messrs. T. E. Butters, Henry Cole, C.B., George Cruikshank, F. H. Fowler, M.R.B.A., W. Hinchcliff, R. Hudson, F.R.S., W. H. Miller, and R. Redgrave, R.A. In the second or mechanical class, Messrs. T. Beggs, A. Hawkins, jun., G. Jennings, T. Lambert, R. Miller, Norman, Searle, S. S. Taylor, G. Thorneloe, and R. Thwaites were selected; while for the third or general class, Messrs. J. Glazier, J. Hill, G. Howlett, jun., G. Prichard, E. Dresser Rogers, S. S. Taylor, H. Wallace, and W. R. Selway were, like the others, unanimously chosen. A number of ladies were then appointed to decide upon the fabrics and fancy work; after which, the space committee and a vigilance committee (composed entirely of exhibitors) were selected. The chairman then replied to many questions from the exhibitors, the chief query eliciting the fact that the Board of Trade had granted protection to designs and improvements exhibited under the Industrial Exhibitions Act, 1865. Thanks to the chairman and a verse of the national anthem brought a protracted but most business-like meeting to a close. There appears every prospect of the forthcoming exposition being one of the most successful of its class which has ever been held.

Gleanings.

The voice of the cuckoo has already been heard in Lancashire.

There was a heavy snowfall on Friday afternoon in Birmingham, Leamington, and the surrounding districts.

A correspondent tells of a Vermont office-seeker at Washington, to whom General Grant "winked," and who now feels secure of his appointment.

Messrs. Macmillan have in the press a volume of sermons by the Rev. Thomas Binney. The sermons were preached in the King's Weigh House Chapel.

The admiration which the lady of the Lord-Lieutenant has roused in the hearts of the Irish people has found expression in the pretty *soubriquet* of Spencer's Faerie Queen.

Friday, 5th instant, appears to have been the hottest day ever recorded in the first week of February. Mr. Allnatt, the Sussex meteorogist, says that the mean temperature of the day was 51·2 degrees, and at half-past three thermometer in the sun marked 71 degrees.

THE SIAMESE TWINS.—Sir W. Fergusson has carefully examined the Siamese Twins, and, we understand, concurs in the general opinion of surgeons that any surgical separation would most likely be attended with fatal consequences, not so much on account of any obstacle presented by the structure of the uniting band of flesh as the moral effect of the disunion on the two brothers.

MISS LYDIA THOMPSON'S HAIR.—Some malicious journalist in New York having insinuated that Miss Lydia Thompson, the English actress, owes her golden tresses more to art than nature, the justly offended fair one has written to the papers, offering to submit her head "to be analysed, if such a process can be effected." "As," she adds, "my hair seems to form one of my chief attractions, its colour and legitimacy must be protected."

A MAMMOTH CONCERT.—The American journals give some details of a projected "Mammoth Jubilee." A building is to be erected on Boston Common by June next capable of seating an audience of 50,000. The orchestra and chorus will number respectively 1,000 and 10,000, and their efforts are to be supplemented by the "ringing of bells, firing of cannon, &c., from the conductive desk." The proceedings are to open with "Hail, Columbia," sung by a special choir of 20,000 children.

AN UNFEELING HUSBAND.—Here is a gentleman's diary of his wife's temper:—"Monday—a thick fog; no seeing through it. Tuesday—Gloomy and very chilly; unseasonable weather. Wednesday—Frosty, at times sharp. Thursday—Bitter cold in the morning, red sunset, with flying clouds, portending hard weather. Friday—Storm in the morning, with peals

of thunder; air clear afterwards. Saturday (pay day)—Gleams of sunshine, with partial thaw; frost again at night. Sunday—A light south-wester in the morning; clear and pleasant at dinner-time; hurricane and earthquake at night."

DR. PUSEY AND THE LATE LORD KINGSDOWN.—The current number of the *Edinburgh Review*, in an article on the late Lord Kingsdown's "Recollections of the Bar," contains the following curious anecdote:—"A few months before Lord Kingsdown's death, when he was already known to be suffering from a mortal disorder, it was proposed in the Hebdomadal Board at Oxford to confer on him by that University the degree of Doctor of Laws, by accepting which he would have reflected at least as much honour on the University as the University could bestow upon him. The proposition was eagerly adopted by a large majority of the board, but it was opposed by Dr. Pusey and one other ecclesiastic, and to avoid the scandal of offering to so eminent a man a disputed honour, the motion was dropped. Oddly enough, Dr. Pusey himself thought it his duty to inform Lord Kingsdown of this occurrence, and to add that his opposition had proceeded from no want of respect to his lordship, but solely from the conviction that Lord Kingsdown had contributed to sustain, by his high judicial authority, judgments averse to what Dr. Pusey is pleased to consider the spiritual interests of the Church. The anecdote is hardly worth preserving, and the mind of Lord Kingsdown was not so constituted as to be at all annoyed by it; but it may serve to show the irreconcilable hostility of some priests to the law of their country, and that they considered, with reason, Lord Kingsdown as one of its most fearless and honest interpreters."

ROB ROY'S CANOE VOYAGE IN SYRIA.—Mr. MacGregor, whose canoe journeys as "Rob Roy" are familiar to our readers, sends to the *Times* some particulars of his trip through Syria, which he visited after having ascended the Nile. He says:—"From Egypt the Rob Roy was taken to Beyrout, and I brought her safely over Mount Lebanon, through snow a foot deep, until we launched her on the river Abana, which bore me swiftly through the magnificent gorge of Doomar to the plain of Damascus. I paddled straight into the town, under the bridges, up to the Pasha's palace. The canoe was next carried on a pony's back through the crowded bazaars until again she floated on the Abana, and in two days more I reached the mouth of the river and camped in a desolate marsh for Christmas. Panthers, hyenas, and other wild beasts are said to be common here, but I feared more than these the wild boars, for if wounded they could pursue me in the shallow water, and one thrust of the tusk would finish my voyage. I saw hundreds of the tracks of the boars in the reeds, but never where the water was deeper than two feet. The only boat that has ever been on this Lake of Ateibeh was lost the first day three years ago, and after a fortnight the dead bodies of the three men in it were discovered by offering a large reward to a man who went out naked upon a raft of reeds to search. After the first ten minutes on this lake I became invisible to those on shore for the whole day, being concealed by the dense reeds through which I steered by compass, and placed cotton rags on the higher plants at intervals to show me the way for my return. Next the Rob Roy went to the Pharpar, which river is far less interesting than the Abana. It has few trees on it, little game, and winds excessively, but is monotonously tame. This falls into Lake Hijarieh, upon which I spent two delightful days, and crossing it, landed the Rob Roy canoe in the Hauran. To come thus to this dangerous region, was, of course, utterly without precedent; and leaving the canoe, I ran quickly up the nearest hill, and gazed over the vast wilderness upon the ruins of the 'giant cities of Bashan.' There is much open water upon Lake Hijarieh, but the weeds cover five-sixths of its surface. These weeds are about ten feet high, several that I measured were twelve feet, yet the canoe easily penetrated the dense covering, and thousands of waterfowl rose as she passed into their thickest haunts. In one part I came to an island with ruins of basalt and scores of boar tracts, and the soil all torn up by their tusks. In another I entered a channel and went with the current until this was too strong to justify hopes of returning against it by nightfall. The country east of the lake is a bleak desert, without one tree, and named 'The Road of the Robbers.' I landed on this, and walked a long way in the bright sunny day, being quite safe for a retreat to my boat if the wildest Arab approached, and safe, too, from his gun, for in a few minutes I could hide in the screen of reeds on the water. All this region, though so near Damascus, is unknown and unsafe. I had to take two soldiers (mounted well, but wretchedly armed) for the eleven days spent in these excursions, and the newspapers (Arabic) here and at Beyrout are about to chronicle the discoveries made in their territory by a foreigner, which may be briefly summed up as follows:—2. The Abana has three mouths, but the largest is not near Harran (as in Vandevelde's excellent map), but near Haush Hammar. These flow into a marsh which has no outlet. It is wrongly called a lake; for in no part is there a hundred yards of open water at all seasons. 2. The Pharpar has two mouths, but the larger is the southern one, to the suth of Kasrein (and not the north, as in Vandevelde). These both fall into Lake Hijarieh, which is rightly called a lake, with an average of five feet of depth, plenty of open water, and an overflow into another lake (Asyah Hasweh—not Bala, as in Vandevelde). Also the lake Matkh Brak is only a marsh, and the river Khuneifis was perfectly dry when I crossed its bed twice in a short excursion to the first of the 'giant-cities,' Brak. I visited a number of villages in the plain of Damascus. The people there are handsome; many of them are tattooed. They wear very brilliant colours, chiefly red (as in Egypt one sees always blue), and long red boots turning up at the ends. They are strong, healthy, good-humoured, and intelligent. Their houses are of mud, but not *very* dirty. They ran in crowds along the rivers while the canoe passed; but when it was on shore (and wrapped in carpets) it was constantly supposed to be a coffin; and several times the women shrieked as I took off the cover and launched the boat. Blessed with fine weather and perfect health, I have enjoyed this canoe voyage in Syria and Egypt to the highest degree; and once more over the spurs of Hermon, which is now all white in snow, I hope to launch the Rob Roy on Lake Huleh and then descend the sacred Jordan."

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

MASON.—February 8, at Loughborough, the wife of the Rev. J. Mason, of a daughter.

SISSONS.—February 6, at 62, Queen's-road, Dalston, the wife of the Rev. Thomas Sissons, of a daughter.

CLARKE.—February 15, at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, the wife of the Rev. C. Clarke, B.A., of a daughter.

BONSER.—February 16, at Chapel House, Ilkeston, near Nottingham, the wife of the Rev. J. Bonser, B.A., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

GREENSMITH—LAMBERT.—February 4, at Fish-street Chapel, Hull, by the Rev. G. T. Coster, William A. Greensmith, to Catherine Overton, daughter of William A. Lambert, Esq., all of Hull.

HOLGATE—WALKER.—February 8, at the Congregational church, Square-road, Halifax, by the Rev. C. Illingworth, Mr. Christopher Holgate, to Mrs. Marian Walker, both of Lightcliffe.

THOMPSON—WADE.—February 9, at East-parade Chapel, Leeds, by the Rev. E. R. Conder, M.A., assisted by the Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B., Vincent T. Thompson, Esq., Lincoln's-inn, barrister-at-law, to Eleanor, second daughter of John Wade, Esq., Leeds.

ROBINSON—THOMAS.—February 9, at Albion-street Chapel, Ashton-under-Lyne, by the Rev. J. Hutchinson, James Robinson, Middlesbro', Yorkshire, to Helen, eldest daughter of Councillor Thomas, Crow Hill, Ashton-under-Lyne.

PADWICK—ARTER.—February 9, at Queen-square Chapel, by the Rev. H. Bromley, Mr. T. Padwick, Wandsworth, to Emma, daughter of Mr. Arter, Havant.

SHAW—TERRY.—February 11, at Salem Chapel, Dewsbury, by the Rev. J. Addyman, the Rev. Jesse Shaw, of Lindley, Huddersfield, to Eleanor Louisa, daughter of R. Terry, Esq., Mirfield.

JACKSON—FARNWORTH.—February 11, at the Baptist chapel, Salford, by the Rev. J. T. Whitley, Joseph Jackson, Esq., of Salford, to Ann, eldest daughter of Mr. James Farnworth, of Pendleton.

NEWMAN—SHAW.—February 14, at the Methodist New Connexion chapel, Hunslet, by the Rev. J. Smith, Alfred, only son of Mr. George Newman, to Louisa, third daughter of Mr. James Shaw, paper merchant, both of Hunslet.

DEATHS.

LACON.—January 22, at his residence, Attercliffe, Sheffield, John Whitridge Lacon, for nine years deacon of Sion Chapel, Attercliffe, aged thirty-one years.

SHELLY.—February 3, at her residence, The Quay, Great Yarmouth, Elizabeth, widow of the late John Shelly, Esq., in the eighty-fourth year of her age.

CLAY.—February 7, aged two years, Arthur, son of Mr. George Clay, of Manor-place, Dewsbury.

PEARSON.—February 9, at 71, Parson-street, Glasgow, aged fifteen years and six months, Joshua Buchanan, second son of Mr. George Pearson.

BLACKBURN.—February 10, aged twenty, Minnie, second daughter of the late Samuel Blackburn, Esq., of Grassmeade, South Fields, Wandsworth. Friends will kindly accept this notice.

WILLIAMS.—February 12, at 9, Cathcart-hill, the house of his daughter, Mrs. Charles Miall, Thomas Sydney Williams, Esq., formerly of Hamburg, in the eighty-third year of his age.

EPPS.—February 12, at 89, Great Russell-street, John Epps, Esq., M.D., aged sixty-four years.

ABRAM.—February 13, deeply lamented, of bronchitis, Mary Abram, of Witton, near Blackburn, widow of the late Rev. Robert Abram, Congregational minister, aged sixty-six years.

WARDROP.—February 13, at Charles-street, St. James's-square, J. Wardrop, Esq., surgeon to his late Majesty George IV., aged eighty-six.

SAMPSON.—February 14, at Yeovil, of congestion of the lungs, Sarah, second daughter of the Rev. J. W. Sampson and Sarah, his wife, aged eleven years and six months.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, Feb. 15.

We had only a small supply of English wheat fresh up for to-day's market. Arrivals from abroad are liberal of wheat, and very large of barley. Of English wheat the samples in good condition were taken at the prices of Monday last; inferior parcels were neglected. Foreign wheat met a fair retail demand at previous prices. Flour was without alteration in value. Peas and beans were each 1s. per qr. lower. Malting barley was less inquired after; grinding descriptions, in consequence of the large supply offering ex ship, were fully 1s. per qr. lower. Of oats, arrivals are moderate. They met a steady demand, at the prices of Monday last. As the ports of call there remained a considerable number of cargoes unsold. Wheat is without alteration in value; maize and barley each 1s. per qr. lower since Monday last.

CURRENT PRICES.

	Per Qr. s.	s.
WHEAT—		
Essex and Kent, red, old	—	—
Ditto new	47	51
White, old	—	—
,, new	53	59
Foreign red	—	—
,, white	—	—
BARLEY—		
English malting	35	38
Chevalier	45	50
Distilling	41	43
Foreign	—	—
MALT—		
Pale	—	—
Chevalier	—	—
Brown	54	62
BEANS—		
Ticks	40	41
Harrow	43	44
Small	—	—
Egyptian	40	41
PEAS—		
Grey	41	42
Maple	45	47
White	42	45
Boilers	42	45
Foreign, boilers	—	—
RYE	40	42
OATS—		
English feed	28	34
,, potatoe	32	35
Scotch feed	—	—
,, potatoe	—	—
Irish black	22	26
,, white	24	26
Foreign feed	—	—
FLOUR—		
Town made	42	47
Country Marks	36	38
Norfolk & Suffolk	31	32

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, Feb. 15.

The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 3,793 head. In the corresponding week in 1868 we received 893; in 1867, 8,425; in 1866, 7,606; in 1865, 4,507; and in 1864, 2,865 head. The bulk of the arrivals to-day consisted of foreign beasts, and owing to general shortness of the supplies, the demand for them ruled steady at enhanced prices. From our own grazing districts the arrivals of stock were very limited, and in inferior condition. The trade was less active than on Monday last, but no quotable change took place in prices. The top prices for best Scots and crosses may be quoted at 5s. 6d. to 5s. 8d. per 8lbs. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire we received about 960 Scots, &c.; from other parts of England, about 610 of various breeds; from Scotland, 247 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland about 240 oxen, &c. The number of sheep in the pens was unusually small, a fair proportion of which came to hand clipped. There were many country buyers in the market, and the trade ruled active at an advance of 2d. per 8lbs. Best Downs and half-breds sold freely at 6s. to 6s. 2d. per 11lbs., and in some instances even that figure was exceeded. The calf trade was steady at our quotations; but pigs were rather quiet.

Per 8lbs. to sink the Offal.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3 6	to 3 10	Prime Southdown	6 2	to 6 4
Second quality	4 0	4 8	Lambs	0 0	0 0
Prime large oxen	4 10	5 4	Lge. coarse calves	4 8	5 2
Prime Scots, &c.	5 6	5 8	Prime small	5 4	6 2
Coarse inf. sheep	3 10	4 4	Large hogs	3 8	4 8
Second quality	4 6	5 6	Neat sm. porkers	4 10	5 2
Pr. coarse woolled	5 8	6 2			

Suckling calves, 22s. to 26s.; and quarter-old store pigs, 22s. to 25s. each.

SMITHFIELD MEAT MARKET, Monday, Feb. 15.

The market is moderately supplied with most kinds of meat. Choice qualities continue to command full prices, in consequence of their scarcity; and the trade generally is healthy. The imports into London last week consisted of 22 packages Harlingen, 51 from Rotterdam, 133 Hamburg, and 174 from Glukstadt.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Inferior beef	3 0	to 3 6	Inf. mutton	3 0	3 6
Middling ditto	3 8	4 2	Middling ditto	3 8	4 6
Prime large do.	4 4	4 6	Prime ditto	4 8	5 0
Do. small do.	4 8	4 10	Veal	3 6	4 10
Large pork	3 0	3 10	Small pork	4 0	4 8

COVENT-GARDEN MARKET.—LONDON, Saturday, Feb. 13.—Some few things have made a slight advance, such as pines, hothouse grapes, and good dessert pears, which are now becoming scarce, and consist only of Beurré rance, Easter Beurré, and ne plus Meuris. Potatoe trade is dull. There is a very large supply of Cornish broccoli, trade for which is heavy at 1s. to 4s. per dozen. Flowers chiefly consist of orchids, primulas, cinerarias, mignonette, heaths, cyclamen, tulips, crocuses, snowdrops, calla æthiopica, cytisus, racemosa, hyacinths, lily of the valley, deutzias, pelargoniums, and fuchsias.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, Feb. 15.—There is no change to report in our market, which remains steady for fine qualities, at recent quotations. There has been a fair demand for foreign at rather stronger prices. Continental markets are firmer, and in some instances 2s. to 3s. advance has been made in fine Bavarians. New York advices to the 3rd inst. report a better feeling in the hop market, owing to the continuance of heavy exports to Europe. Mid and East Kent, 2l. 10s., 5l., to 8l. 8s.; Weald of Kents, 2l., 3l. 3s., to 4l. 15s.; Sussex, 2l., 3l., to 4l. 4s.; Farnham, 4l., 5l., to 6l. 6s.; Country, 4l., 4l. 10s., to 5l. 5s.; Bavarians, 3l. 11s., 3l. 10s., to 4l. 10s.; Belgians, 2l. 2s., 3l. 10s., to 5l.; Yearlings, 3l., 3l. 10s., to 4l. 4s.

PROVISIONS, Monday, Feb. 15.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 343 firkins butter and 3,531 bales bacon, and from foreign ports, 24,311 casks, &c., butter, and 771 bales and 115 boxes bacon. In Irish butter the transactions are so limited quotations are quite nominal; the extreme mildness of the season much against business. Foreign met a fair sale; best Dutch advanced about 6s. in consequence of short supply, to 144s. The bacon market was steady; sales of best Waterford made at 74s. to 76s. on board.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday, Feb. 15.—There is a fair show of potatoes in these markets and more than equal to the demand. Sales progressed slowly at late rates. The import into London last week consisted of 4 bags from Amsterdam, 47 bags from Antwerp, 2,546 sacks from Dunkirk, 193 tons from Rouen, 779 bags from Caen, 20 bags from Rotterdam, and 203 bags from Boulogne. English Regents, 60s. to 130s. per ton, Flukes, 70s. to 140s., Scotch Regents 60s. to 130s., Rooks 60s. to 80s., French, 40s. to 80s. per ton.

SEED, Monday, Feb. 15.—Fine English red cloverseed remains scarce; fine samples are held very high, and the best foreign qualities were quite as dear. White cloverseed remains both firm and dear: sales were limited. Trefoils were more inquired for, and steady in price. No change in either white or brown mustardseed. Rapeseed realised as much money, with limited demand. Foreign tares were saleable on former terms.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—ABSCESSES—ERYSIPELAS—PILES.—The first of the above-named diseases is sure to prevail when changes of atmosphere are both great and sudden; the other two are, unhappily, ever present in our midst. Unvarying success attends all who treat these diseases according to the simple printed directions wrapped round each box. They are invaluable to the young and timid, whose bashfulness sometimes endangers life. A little attention, moderate perseverance, and trifling expense, will enable the sufferer to conduct the case to a happy issue, without exposing secret infirmities to anyone. The ointment arrests the spreading inflammation, restrains the excited vessels, cools the overheated skin, and alleviates throbbing.

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THE GOVERNORS of MILL-HILL SCHOOL are anxious to receive APPLICATIONS for the HEAD-MASTERSHIP, from Gentlemen of Position and Attainments. Graduates of any British University who have had experience in similar work are invited to apply for further information to the Treasurer, Thomas Scrutton, Esq., 5, Corbet court, Gracechurch-street, E.C.

LENTEN LECTURES "On Elementary Astronomy," at the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—Professor Pepper will commence his Annual Course on Monday next, the 15th, at Three. Subject:—"Spectrum Analysis; and the latest researches of William Huggins, Esq., F.R.S. On the Spectra of some of the Stars and Nebulæ; and on the Spectra of the Sun and Comet II. 1868." N.B.—The Lecture will be repeated Friday, February 19th, at Three. The other Lectures will be duly announced.

LONDON.—SHIRLEY'S TEMPERANCE HOTEL, 27, Queen-square, Bloomsbury. Beds from 1s. 6d. Plain Breakfast or Tea, 1s. 3d.

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